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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What did you do with your stimulus check?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Below $4

Gasoline held steady near an average $3.98 a gallon at the pump.

BUSINESS...Page 13

Near Victory

Barack Obama pushed close to victory in the marathon Democratic presidential race.

NATION...Page 14

Casetta Wines

Renowned Italian vintner Ernesto Casetta treated visitors at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to a tasting of the Casetta family's wines.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Power outages may drag on further. **PAGE 3**

Car sales shrink in May. **PAGE 7**

CPA board resigns en masse

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has resigned en masse amid financial problems that nearly caused the agency to default on its $20-million airport revenue bond.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked the appointees to resign after he suspended the board and took over the ports authority.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that all of the members had resigned, with the last one being chairman Rex I. Palacios.

See CPA on Page 4

Class action attorney gets 30 months for kickback scheme

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

Class action attorney Melvyn Weiss, whose lawsuits targeted some of the largest corporations in the nation including the garment industry on Saipan, was sentenced Monday to 30 months in prison. Weiss was accused of helping orchestrate a lucrative lawsuit kickback scheme aimed at big companies.

U.S. District Judge John F. Walter

See CLASS on Page 4

In this Oct. 12, 2007 file photo, attorney Melvyn Weiss, co-founder of the prestigious New York law firm of Milberg Weiss, arrives at court in Los Angeles. AP

'Stimulus' hopefuls rush to correct deficiencies

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The long lines are back at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, as taxpayers come to file their income tax returns and correct deficiencies that prevent them from getting their "economic stimulus" payments.

The U.S. Department of Treasury allocated roughly $16.1 million in "economic stimulus" payments for taxpayers in the Northern Marianas. Some 11,000

See STIMULUS on Page 4

A man reads the notice on the rebate stimulus payment posted on the front door of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten DanDan yesterday afternoon. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

THAT TIME OF YEAR JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rahman, an employee of TD Amusement, paints the merry-go-round yesterday in preparation for this year's Liberation Day Festival that will kick off on June 6 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

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Local

Palacios, Indalecio lead SAES' Class of 2008

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

San Antonio Elementary School held its 6th grade promotion ceremony at their school campus stage area on Monday.

Fidel Nimer Palacios, 11, was named the Valedictorian and was awarded the Commissioner's Award. He also got three other awards.

Palacios is the youngest son of Lolita and Jose Palacios.

FIDEL NIMER PALACIOS
Commissioner's Award

APRIL RITA INDALECIO
Principal's Award

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the 6th grade class present their farewell song "Farewell to You My Friend."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
San Antonio Elementary School 6th grade graduates Donavin Pangelinan (son of the late Emery Joseph Pangelinan) and Raymond "TonTon" Mercado (son of the late Glenn Anthony R. Mercado) flash the peace and love sign in memory of their fathers who both recently passed away due to cancer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Mercado Family and Mamasang Masayo pose with their graduate, Raymond Anthony S. Mercado.

His brother is currently with the U.S. Army in Iraq, while his father passed away eight years ago.

His proud mother boasts that Palacios does his homework everyday, and that he likes watching the Discovery channel. Lolita said her son chooses to do his homework first before playing with his neighborhood friends.

"I am very proud of him. Nobody knew who would be the valedictorian. When the countdown came down to one, our heartbeats were really going fast. We really didn't know. Overall, I am so happy for his hard work," said his mother.

After getting the award, the entire family celebrated at Troung's Restaurant.

April Rita Indalecio, 12, was this year's Salutatorian and recipient of the Principal's Award.

The daughter of Jing Min Zhu and Albert Indalecio, April also received the Perfect Attendance Award, the Excellence Award, and the Presidential Gold Award.

Rep. Ralph DLG Torres was the keynote speaker for the event.

Both Palacios and Indalecio will attend Hopwood Junior High next school year. They led a batch of 44 sixth graders during Monday's ceremony.

The top 10 graduates were Palacios, Indalecio, Edinna Cepeda, Bertran Palacios, Dhale Larsen Posadas, Shirley Kentaro, Rayven Ferrer, Hiram Castro, Khaiza Germance, and Alaiza Fe Basto.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-08-2292

For: **REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATION SERVICES FOR THE JAPAN MARKET**

Closing Date: **June 20, 2008** Time: **3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)**

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 510008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the MVA Saipan office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
Managing Director

BRIDGE CAPITAL NEWS

Bridge Capital, LLC, a commercial loan company headquarterd in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI,) is pleased to announce that it has lowered the minimum amount it will consider for loans in the the CNMI to $500,000; the minimum is $1,000,000 for borrowers outside the Commonwealth. Bridge Capital, LLC makes short term, real-estate-secured loans available for one to two years. We are committed to the growth of the CNMI and the economic development of the Western Pacific area. If you would like more information about Bridge Capital financing, contact one of our Saipan based Loan Officers.

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BRIDGE CAPITAL

Power outages may drag on further

Muna apologizes for earlier vow to end outages in June

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rolling blackouts are expected to hit Saipan until July or August as maintenance dates on two power engines at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base are being pushed back.

As this developed, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio S. Muna apologized to the public for announcing last month that outages would end in June.

"I sincerely apologize to the public for being too optimistic," said Muna in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

In his meeting with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last May 7, the CUC executive director promised that rolling blackouts would be a thing of the past come June 2008.

But Muna told the *Saipan Tribune* on Monday that when he made the announcement that time, he had information that he felt was reliable.

"Based on that information we felt that by June 30th we would have engines 1 and 7 online," he said.

Muna said that over the past few weeks a delay in getting necessary parts for those two engines pushed back the dates when they expect to complete the maintenance effort.

Instead of June 30, he said they are now looking at July 15 to complete maintenance work on engine 7.

As for engine 1, Muna said, they are expecting a completion date of July 31.

"Everything is being pushed back as a result of what we are going through right now," he noted.

Once engines 1 and 7 come out of the maintenance cycle, the utilities can repair the two additional engines, he added.

Saipan experienced extensive power outages on Monday after engines 3 and 6 at the Power Plant 1 in Lower Base went down due to mechanical problems.

Repair on Feeder 4 causes more outages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Repair on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Feeder 4 Grid caused more power outage in some areas on Saipan, on top of the rolling outages being implemented yesterday.

CUC executive director Antonio S. Muna said the power division's crew repaired a defective air break system on Feeder 3 near the Gualo Rai intersection.

Muna said the repair of the equipment allowed CUC crew members to isolate specific areas of the grid to perform systems maintenance and minimize future feeder outages.

To ensure the safety of the crew, both Feeder 1 and Feeder 3 were required to be de-energized from 8am through 10am.

"Immediately after the completion of this project the load-shedding schedule will continue until the engine repairs are completed at the power plant," the CUC official said.

Affected from 8am to 10am was the entire Feeder 2 grid or the Commonwealth Ports Authority Puerto Rico area, and Garapan south to San Jose intersection.

In that two-hour period, the entire Feeder 3 grid also went down, cutting power to Chinatown, Sugar King, As Falepe south to the Gualo Rai intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and Quarter Master.

CUC Power Division acting Manager Gary P. Camacho said that from 10am to 12 noon, the outage happened at CPA/Airport, As Perdido, Upper China Town, and Upper Miha.

From 12pm to 2pm, outages were in Sadog Tasi, Wireless, Capital to Kagman and portions of Papago.

From 2pm to 4pm, the blackout rotation was in Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi.

From 4pm to 10pm, CUC set the scheduled two-hour rolling blackout in the areas of As Lito, Fina Sisu, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio, Afetnas, Oleai, San Jose, Susupe, and Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya.

The outage also affected San Vicente, portions of Papago, Upper and Lower Dandan, Isley Field, CPA/Airport, and As Perdido.

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

Editor's Note: As of June 3, 2008

■ **8am-10am Feeder 2:** Entire Grid (CPA Puerto Rico (Seaport), Garapan south to San Jose Intersection)

Feeder 3: Entire Grid (Chinatown Sugar King, As Falepe south to Gualo Rai intersection, south to the intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Rd. and Quarter Master)

■ **10am-12pm Kiya 1:** Second Partial (CPA/Airport, As Perdido)

Feeder 1: Laterals (Upper Chinatown, Upper MIHA)

■ **12pm-2pm Feeder 4:** Entire Grid (Sadog Tasi, Wireless, Capital to Kagman and portions of Papago)

■ **2pm-4pm Feeder 7:** Entire Grid (Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi)

■ **4pm-6pm Kiya 2:** Entire Grid (As Lito, Fina Sisu, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas)

■ **6pm-8pm** Kiya 4: Entire Grid (Oleai, San Jose, Susupe, Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya)

■ **8pm-10pm Kiya 1:** Entire Grid (San Vicente, portions of Papago, Upper and Lower Dandan, Isley field, CPA/ Airport, As Perdido)

Source: *Commonwealth Utilities Corp.*

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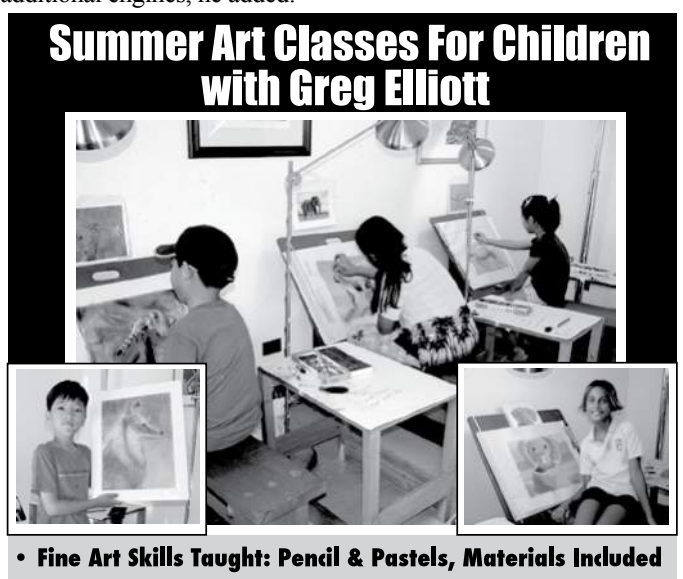
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Rasiang, Ogumoro, Manahane are Top Gun champs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police officers Norman Rasiang and Raquel Ogumoro and Ports Police sergeant Melvin Manahane emerged as this year's Top Gun champions.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's SPOC team was also declared as this year's Top Gun's team champion, while the Department of Public Safety's Clyde's Angels Team was the uncontested champion in the female team competition.

DPS spokesman Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that 50 personnel from eight agencies participated in the annual competition, held at the DPS Firing Range in San Juan, Saipan Wednesday last week.

In the Men's Singles Competition, veteran top gun shooter Police Officer 2 Norman Rasiang used a 3.9-inch Glock 23 .40 caliber to grab first place in his square off with Sgt. Juan Rebuenog of CPA.

Rebuenog fired a 3.9-inch Glock 19 pistol to capture the second place. Sgt. Joe Palacios of CPA landed on third spot.

In the Firearm Instructors' Competition, Sgt. Melvin Manahane of CPA successfully claimed the Instructor Top Gun champion trophy by beating seven other participants.

WENDY PRATER

Winners of the Individual Competitions: Sgt. Melvin Manahane (CPA), POI Raquel Gomorra (DPS), and POII Norman Rasiang (DPS).

Special agent Jim Barry of the Federal Bureau of Investigation won second place, while CPA assistant chief Jordan Kosam grabbed third place.

In the Female Singles Competition, DPS Police Officer 1 Raquel Ogumoro successfully defended her title by using a four-inch Smith and Wesson 5906 semi-automatic pistol. She got a perfect score on the Remington 870 pump-action shotgun.

DPS Police Officer 2 Tricia Seman grabbed second place, while DPS Police Officer 2 Mary Lou Tanaka came in third.

In the Men's Team Competition, four-time Team Top Gun Champion CPA's SPOC broke their own record last year to emerge champion again. The team—composed of Sergeants Juan Rebuenog, Joe Palacios, Melvin Manahane, and assistant chief Jordan Kosam—completed the confined shooting combat course with a new record time of 2 minutes and 11 seconds.

The course included firing a submachine gun at 50 yards, pistol barricade shooting at 15 yards, pistol prone position at 15 yards, and shotgun at 25 yards.

LEI OGUMORO

Winner of the Men's Team Competition: Sgt. Melvin Manahane, Sgt. Juan Rebuenog, Sgt. Joe Palacios, and Asst. Chief Jordan Kosam (all from CPA Ports Police).

Winner of the Female's Team Competition: POI Melissa Bauleong, POI Raquel Ogumoro, POII Mary Lou Tanaka, POII Tricia Seman, and POII Catherine Pangelinan. WENDY PRATER

DPS Criminal Investigation Division's Team Stimulus composed of Officers Peter Camacho, Roy Kaipat, Joey Cruz, and Kevin Maratita clinched the second spot.

Division of Fish and Wildlife's Team, consisting of conservation officers Juan Kapileo, Tony Mareham, Peter Teigita, and Ray Cabrera, took the third place.

In the Female's Team Competition, as there was no opponent, DPS Clyde's Angels team was declared champion. The team—composed of Officers Tricia Seman, Melissa Bauleong, Mary Lou Tanaka, Raquel Ogumoro, and Catherine Pangelinan—decided to test their skills in the men's category.

The Angels set a record as the first female team to score a perfect score of 21 out of 21 with a new time of 3:38.

CPA

From Page 1

"The next step will be to come up with the list of new appointees, and submit it to the Senate for confirmation. We need to get that done, so CPA can be returned to autonomous status as soon as possible," said Reyes.

When the Legislature rejected the governor's takeover of CPA last week, it also called on Fitial to replace all of the members of the board. It appears the governor had done this before the Legislature called for it.

Lee Cabrera, the acting executive director at CPA, said the governor asked for the board's resignation on May 23, 2008.

The board members who have resigned are Palacios, Antonio Camacho, Connie Igisomar, Joe Lifoifoi, Alejo Mendiola, and Ray Cing. Another former member, Marian Tudela, had quit previously to accept an appointment to the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees.

On May 12, 2008, the governor issued an executive order placing CPA under his direct control for 120 days. He also signed a separate order declaring CPA under a state of emergency.

The Legislature has overturned the reorganization order, but emergency declaration will keep the ports authority under the Governor's Office at least until June 11, 2008.

The ports authority was on the verge of technical default on its airport revenue bond when the governor took over. CPA's bond consultants had recommended measures to prevent the default, but the board of directors failed to implement them.

The Legislature has said the governor could have solved the problem by simply appointing new members to the board. But Fitial argued this approach would have delayed action, as the process of nominating and confirming appointees take time.

CLASS

From Page 1

also ordered Weiss, 72, to pay $9.7 million in forfeitures and $250,000 in fines.

Weiss pleaded guilty to a racketeering conspiracy charge in April as part of an agreement with prosecutors.

On Saipan, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the sentencing of Milberg Weiss attorneys further discredits the class action litigation against the Commonwealth's garment industry, which is now in sharp decline.

"These disturbing criminal developments vindicate the CNMI and the industry and show that the class action suit was baseless and malicious," said Fitial.

"The lawsuit by these unethical and disgraced attorneys damaged the CNMI's reputation and harmed our industry. These attorneys are now being punished but the damage to the CNMI has already been done," he added.

The Commonwealth is now going to lose its immigration control in part because of the lawsuit initiated by the former Milberg Weiss firm, Fitial said.

"The baseless class action accusations fueled proponents of federalization and ultimately led to the misguided federalization of the CNMI based on such sensational charges for political and monetary benefits," he said.

Fitial also noted that Levi Strauss did not settle the suit and was later vindicated in court.

The governor is a former executive of Tan Holdings Corp., which used to own some garment factories on Saipan.

Richard Pierce, special assistant to the governor and a former executive director of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, welcomed Weiss's conviction.

"No pun intended, but if the shoe fits, wear it," Pierce said. "I wish we could turn around and take action against him for the damages brought not only upon businesses here but also the people of the CNMI."

Tan Holdings lawyer Steven Pixley noted the severe consequences the suits Weiss spearheaded had for Saipan's business community, saying it damaged the garment manufacturing sector's efforts to win the passage of federal legislation easing regulatory restrictions.

Furthermore, the litigation "accelerated the departure of the industry," diminished sales of garments from Saipan and led to a wave of negative media attention for the island that spurred protests of retail apparel sellers nationwide, Pixley said.

Supporters of Weiss' efforts to sue the garment industry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In a prepared, handwritten statement read before sentencing, Weiss apologized for his "wrongful conduct" and described the case as a fall from grace.

"I promise you my contrition is profound and genuine," said Weiss, the co-founder of the New York law firm once known as Milberg Weiss.

Prosecutors had sought the maximum 33-month sentence. Weiss and his attorneys asked for a reduced prison term, citing his age and contributions inside and outside courtrooms.

Authorities said Weiss' firm made about $250 million over two decades by filing legal actions on behalf of professional plaintiffs who received $11.3 million in kickbacks.

"Over the course of 25 years, Melvyn Weiss and his co-conspirators compromised the justice system as they caused associates to lie to judges across the nation," said U.S. Attorney Thomas P. O'Brien.

One legal observer believed the case will have a significant impact on future class-action lawsuits.

"I think it's going to make judges scrutinize those cases more closely," said Brad Simon, a former federal prosecutor who now works as a criminal defense attorney. "It's a shame because of the (defendants') greed, they may have hampered the ability for investors to get redress."

Milberg Weiss dominated the industry in securities class-action lawsuits, which involve shareholders who claim they suffered losses because executives misled them about a company's financial condition.

The kickback scheme allowed attorneys at the firm to be among the first to file litigation and secure the lucrative position as lead plaintiffs' counsel, according to court documents.

The lawsuits also targeted companies such as AT&T Inc., Lucent, WorldCom, Microsoft Corp. and Prudential Insurance. ***(With AP, Agnes E. Donato)***

STIMULUS

From Page 1

checks, about half of those who have filed their 2007 income tax returns, reached individuals last weekend.

Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos has said some 12,000 of the filings had deficiencies.

Erlinda Flores, for example, said she got a letter from The Division of Revenue and Taxation saying that another taxpayer is using her Social Security number. She was told to present her Social Security documents for verification.

Officials told Anna Liza Padernal, a foreign worker, to prove her residency in the Commonwealth by presenting her entry permit and a copy of her passport showing the date of her first entry in the CNMI.

But for some foreign workers who are in the same situation as Padernal, compliance is not so easy. Although they are working legally in the Commonwealth, the Department of Labor had yet to issue their entry permits.

Revenue and Taxation has reportedly refused to honor other documents showing the permit is being processed, and has told the workers their rebate checks may not be released until their entry permit is out.

The *Saipan Tribune* went to see Revenue and Taxation director Estrellita Ada, but was referred by her staff to Secretary Inos, who did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, said that guest workers had called the problem to her group's attention.

"It just seems unfair," said Tantiado. "Other guest workers got their checks without meeting this requirement. Plus, we all know how long it takes for Labor to process entry permits."

Tantiado called on the Department of Finance to explain what prompted the requirement. She argued that a taxpayer's Social Security number should suffice.

Meanwhile, some taxpayers are just now filing their income tax returns in the hope of receiving the windfall from the U.S. government.

The federal rebates range up to $600 for an individual and $1,200 for a couple. Families with children will get $300 per child. The law guarantees workers who earned about $3,000 in 2007 at least a $300 tax rebate.

The rebates would phase out gradually for single taxpayers whose adjusted gross incomes exceed $75,000 and for couples with incomes over $150,000.

The rebates were the centerpiece of the U.S. government's $168 billion economic stimulus package enacted in February and are designed to boost consumer spending and stir the sluggish economy.

Voter registration for '08 polls ongoing

The Commonwealth Election Commission said yesterday that the registration of eligible voters is ongoing and the last day for voter registration is Sept. 15, 2008.

Any person qualified to vote may register during government workdays from 7:30am to 4:30pm at the Commission's offices at 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan.

Eligible voters residing on Rota may register with Miranda V. Manglona or Josepha A. Barcinas. Tinian residents may register with Jose P. Kiyoshi or Mary B. Diaz. Residents of the islands north of Saipan may contact the Commission via the government radios maintained at EMO.

Voter registration is also being conducted Saturdays at Price Costco in Oleai from 9am to 3pm. The last day for the Price Costco voter registration is Saturday, Sept. 13,2008.

Eligible voters outside the Commonwealth may go to www.votecnmi.gov.mp to download the required registration forms. Eligible voters who are homebound and require assistance in registering to vote may contact the commission for further information.

A person is eligible to vote if, on Nov. 4, 2008, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, has resided in the CNMI for 120 days prior to the day of the election, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States as defined in the Northern Marianas Islands Constitution.

Previously registered voters who failed to vote in the 2007 regular general election must re-register in order to be eligible to vote in the 2008 general election.

Anyone requiring voter registration information may call the commission's office at 664-VOTE or by sending electronic mail to cec@votecnmi.gov.mp or info@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Marlou Aranda carries her 2-year-old son as she waits for her turn to show to Labor personnel at Sugar King Park's Roundhouse last week the administrative order for her late husband.

Jobless widow presses on in late husband's fight to collect award

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A jobless widow has continued the fight to collect the $8,059.34 in unpaid wages and damages awarded by the Department of Labor to her common-law husband who drowned early this year.

Marlou Aranda, 36, told *Saipan Tribune* that she is not losing hope that she will soon get the money owed her late husband, Roberto R. Raquepo.

"I am appealing that they should pay the money for the sake of my two young children," said Aranda in Tagalog, referring to Raquepo's former employer, Island Security Services Inc.

Then Labor Administrative Hearing Officer and now Labor director Barry Hirshbein had found ISS liable to pay many security guards, including Raquepo, unpaid wages and damages.

Aranda said her husband had been following up on the payment since the order was issued on June 12, 2007, and that in fact he was among the hundreds of alien workers who forwarded their Labor administrative orders that remained unpaid to the federal ombudsman's office.

Raquepo worked on the island starting in 1992. Last Feb. 14, he drowned when he tried to retrieve his catch while fishing near the cliff line of Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville.

"He was supposed to pick up our 11-year-old son from school that afternoon but he never showed up because of what happened. And until now, our two-year-old son is still wondering where his father went," said Aranda, tears rolling down her cheeks.

Since she is jobless and has a pending Labor case, Aranda said she and her children, ages 2 and 11, rely on the $233 they get in monthly food stamps, in addition to the help of family members.

"I am appealing to the Island Security Service owners or to anybody who can help us get the money owed my late husband. It's very difficult to raise two young children and I don't have a job," she said.

Aranda was among hundreds of alien workers who showed up at the Sugar King Park's Roundhouse last week where Labor personnel handed them small claim packets to collect their unpaid wages and damages.

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Telephone: (670) 323-2115; Fax 323-2116

ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ASSET MANAGEMENT, CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. ANA MARIA B. HOFSCHNEIDER, THE ESTATE OF HENRY LAMBERT UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, and DOES I-X Defendants,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0179 **SUMMONS**

TO: ANA MARIA B. HOFSHCNEIDER, Defendant.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint attached hereto, within Twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, at P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950 immediately after filing your Answer with the Clerk of the CNMI Superior Court.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the CNMI Superior Court, whose office is located on the first floor of the Guma Husticia Bldg., Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan. This may be done by you or your attorney, but it is not necessary for you to appear personally unless you are notified to do so in the future.

If you fail to file an Answer within the time specified above, the allegations of the Complaints will be deemed admitted and the Court will enter a default judgement against you.

Dated this 21st day of April, 2006.

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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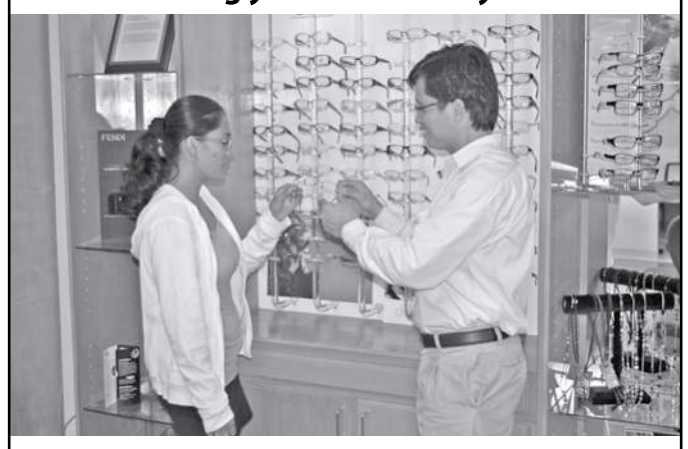

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STADT HAMBURG	017E	5/24 SAT	5/22 THU	5/12 MON	5/29 THU	5/13 TUE	5/17 SAT	5/30 FRI	5/26 MON	5/25 SUN	5/20 TUE	5/11 SUN	5/26 MON	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT
MELL SENOKO	005E	5/31 SAT	5/29 THU	5/19 MON	6/5 THU	5/20 TUE	5/24 SAT	6/6 FRI	6/2 MON	6/1 SUN	5/27 TUE	5/18 SUN	6/2 MON	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/7 SAT	6/5 THU	5/26 MON	6/12 THU	5/27 TUE	5/31 SAT	6/13 FRI	6/9 MON	6/8 SUN	6/3 TUE	5/25 SUN	6/9 MON	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/14 SAT	6/12 THU	6/2 MON	6/19 THU	6/3 TUE	6/7 SAT	6/20 FRI	6/16 MON	6/15 SUN	6/10 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/16 MON	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT
MELL SENOKO	006E	6/21 SAT	6/19 THU	6/9 MON	6/26 THU	6/10 TUE	6/14 SAT	6/27 FRI	6/23 MON	6/22 SUN	6/17 TUE	6/8 SUN	6/23 MON	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	011E	6/28 SAT	6/26 THU	6/16 MON	7/3 THU	6/17 TUE	6/21 SAT	7/4 FRI	6/30 MON	6/29 SUN	6/24 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/30 MON	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	017E	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/24 TUE	6/22 SUN	6/25 WED
MELL SENOKO	005E	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/14 SAT	SKIP	6/18 WED	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/1 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/2 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/25 WED	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/8 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/9 WED
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	6/28 SAT	SKIP	7/2 WED	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/17 THU	7/15 TUE	7/13 SUN	7/16 WED
MELL SENOKO	006E	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/5 SAT	7/8 Tue	7/9 WED	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/15 TUE	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/24 THU	7/22 TUE	7/20 SUN	7/23 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	011E	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/12 SAT	SKIP	7/16 WED	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/22 TUE	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/31 THU	7/29 TUE	7/27 SUN	7/30 WED

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Moving the world

Santos, Arangorin are top graduates at ChaCha

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

ChaCha OceanView Jr. High School held its promotional ceremony yesterday for 179 students, honoring Christopher John Santos and Allyssa Arangorin as the school's top graduates.

Santos was awarded the Commissioner's Award, the highest award. He was also conferred honors for being the best in language arts, science, social studies, math and wood shop.

"I would like to describe to you that this achievement was challenging. I learned to manage my time wisely between study and play, being able to be resilient. I also learned the virtue of being patient. I was hard working when it came to my studies," said Santos.

The Principal's Award, the second highest, went to Arangorin, the daughter of Norbe and Manolo Arangorin.

"It is not hard to reach for our dreams, whether we are rich or poor. It's in our hands. Our hard work, dedication and when we put God in the center of our lives," Allyssa said. She acknowledged her mom, dad, brother Justin, best friends Hana and Judy, former teachers, and the rest of the graduates for all that they've taught her.

Special awards were given to Keisha Manglona, who was given the Principal's Leadership Award, and Atdao Rosario, who got the Department of Environmental Quality Award.

The keynote speaker for the event was Aaron Lewis.

Besides Santos and Arangorin, the other top students were Elloise Dana Lotoc, Ronnie Cherise Camacho, Patsylynn Jetley, Kevin Santiago, John Norita, Justin Sablan Kumagai, and Anjannete Narvaez.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN SANTOS
Commissioner's Award

ALLYSSA ARANGORIN
Principal's Award

KEISHA MANGLONA
Leadership Award

ATDAO ROSARIO
DEQ Award

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Chacha Oceanview Junior High School top 10 honor students Chistopher John C. Santos, Allyssa E. Arangorin, Elloise Dana Lotoc, Ronnie Cherise Camacho, Patsylynn Jetley, Kevin Santiago, Erbert Santiago Jr, John Norita, Justin Ray Sablan Kumagai, and Anjannete Narvaez gather for a photo during the Class 2008 promotional ceremony yesterday.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Patience a virtue for Hawaii Bar and Grill

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

Despite the many businesses bemoaning Saipan's recent economic slump, one island restaurant has found an opportunity to carve out its own niche in the island's tourism and entertainment market with a new expansion project set to premier this weekend.

The Hawaii Bar and Grill in Garapan, across the street from the Hyatt Regency Hotel, is poised to unveil a new addition Saturday attached to the restaurant dubbed Primo's Sports Bar. Adorned with photographs of Saipan's sports teams going back as far as the 1950s and athletic trophies, Primo's has all the feel of a classic neighborhood bar: easy-going, unpretentious and fun.

Patrons at Primo's will find all the key accoutrements of a casual nighttime hangout. A pool table greets you coming through the door. Dartboards hang on the far wall along with a neon-encased jukebox.

The décor also gives visitors a sense of the owners' community roots. Looking over the photographs, for example, restaurant co-owner Andrew Salas can point to several familiar faces from the past, friends and hometown athletes whose bygone days on the field are now the stuff of barroom legend.

Yet the grand opening of Primo's comes at an auspicious time, with countless other business ventures in Garapan now on hold, shutting their doors or hemorrhaging money. None of those worries, however, have stopped owners Billy Moot and Salas, who have found new prospects amid the island's economic troubles.

"The key word here is patience," Salas said Tuesday, leaning on the newly painted bar. "Be patient. Business is going to be slow for now but it will build back up."

Salas has the inside track when it comes to understanding the island's economy. A former Republican congressman for Precinct 2, who once also served as Saipan's secretary of Commerce, he knows that even in a downturn new growth is possible for businesses with the vision to plan ahead, the smarts to find good deals on necessities and the ability to cut costs.

"I've never believed the only time to do business is when everyone is doing well," said Salas, who is banking that the island's economy will eventually revive and the bar's location near a string of popular beach resorts will mean a wave of new customers in the not-too-distant future. "We're just hoping and praying that the location will help us. Tourists are our main target but when the economy gets better, the locals will also come out."

To make Primo's a reality, Salas and Moot had to keep costs low. They cleverly bought supplies like furniture from businesses that have closed and garage sales to get what they need at a lower price. In addition, they cut back the restaurant's hours of operation and the bar's staff. Like many businesses on Saipan, the restaurant's highest cost is electricity, which has been in short supply. Recently, the restaurant closed its doors for a day because of power outages.

And Salas, still a politician at heart, urged the island's current leadership to see the holistic nature of Saipan's economic woes, whether they be rolling blackouts or a lack of fresh investments. "The government has not recognized the fact that all of these things are related," he said.

Politics aside, Primo's is also hoping to carve out a special niche in Saipan's nightlife, Salas said, noting the bar will showcase amateur talent on its small stage Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night, such as singers, comedy acts, and even poetry readings. In the early evenings, the bar may also host young entertainers, though Salas cautioned that he might have to block patrons from smoking while young people are present. After all, Salas notes, the Hawaii Bar and Grill was the first restaurant on Saipan to become a non-smoking establishment.

As a sports bar, Primo's will soon also feature televisions for sporting events, Salas noted, and he is encouraging local sports fans to donate any memorabilia available for the bar's walls. The bar also plans to begin sponsoring local sports teams in the coming six months.

The well-stocked bar of the Primo's Sports Bar. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Hawaii Bar and Grill in Garapan is poised to unveil a new addition Saturday attached to the restaurant dubbed Primo's Sports Bar.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Patrons at Primo's will find all the key accoutrements of a casual nighttime hangout.

Car sales shrink in May

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

Saipan's automotive dealerships reported Tuesday a slight drop in sales for the month of May, though members of the Commonwealth Automobile Association remain upbeat about the prospect sales will improve in the near future.

In a just-released sales report CADA said dealerships sold 48 new cars last month, a minor decline compared to the 54 sold in May 2007.

"With everything that is going on in the market right now, we expect to see some shrinkage but it is not the dramatic declines we experienced last year," said CADA president and general manager of Joeten Motors, Matthew Deets, noting that sales in the new car market have dropped by a mere 3.6 percent compared to last year. "I still have a positive outlook that sales will improve slightly over the next few months…"

Deets also pointed to a decline in inventory as a key factor in the sales drop.

Only Joeten Motors saw an increase in May sales over last year with 20 purchases of new cars and a 54 percent increase in overall purchases. Microl saw a slight drop of 5 percent in sales with 19 units purchased and Triple J Motors saw a 57 percent drop in sales with 9 units bought.

Among the models sold, the Toyota Yaris was the most popular sedan last month with seven units sold while the Ford Ranger dominated the sales of trucks with four units. As for the SUV market, the Honda CR-V proved the most popular with two units sold. Dealers also sold three vans.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DFS DONATION

DFS Galleria Saipan and its president, Marian Aldan-Pierce, were the first company to respond to the appeal made by Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota. The donations were made pursuant to Public Law 10-73, providing tax credit for contributions made to qualifying educational institutions. The school is appealing to the businesses on Saipan for financial support to renovate the school building and annual operational costs amounting to approximately $400,000. The ad hoc committee of one, David M. Sablan, has written letter to the local business firms asking for their help to support the appeal. For further information, call Sablan at 234-0610, ext 147.

16 Korean travel agents head for NMI

Sixteen travel agents that sell the Northern Marianas products in Busan, Korea will be on Saipan and Tinian for a familiarization tour on June 8 – 12. Accompanying the group is a Marianas Visitors Authority Korea staff, one Asiana Airlines staff, one trade newspaper, one regional newspaper and one travel magazine, bringing the group total to 21.

MVA believes that this familiarization tour will give the travel agents a first-hand experience of the various attractions Northern Marianas has to offer. This will help them promote the destination better to the consumers in the southern part of Korea. This tour will also serve to strengthen MVA's relationship with the travel agents from Busan whose partnership is becoming more important as the number of Korean tourists to the islands is growing quickly.

Earlier this year, MVA launched the "Busan Recovery Plan" which is aimed at boosting the number of tourists flying out of Busan. Besides the volume incentive promotion, MVA has hosted three road shows in the southern region in the cities of Busan and Daegu, is running the bus-shelter advertising campaign in Busan and is planning a series of consumer promotions for the region.

MVA acknowledged its participating members for their support. They include Aqua Resort Club, Palms Resort Saipan, Sandcastle, Mariana Resort & Spa, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Pacific Islands Club, KTB and KTAS.

"We look forward to having the Busan agents on our islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Korea continues to show double digit growth every month and it is our goal to see that trend continue." ***(MVA)***

Notice of Date Change for Zoning Board Meeting

The June monthly meeting of the Zoning Board that was scheduled for June 12 has been rescheduled to June 26. The meeting will be held at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. A meeting agenda will be published in this newspaper on Friday, June 13 and Friday, June 20. The public is invited to attend. For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces that Public Law No. 16-2, Section 8, entitled 'Various Government Services Fees,' fees for the following government services shall be increased by one hundred percent (100%) effective June 1, 2008:

Driver License (D/L) Fees	Current	New Fee Rates
Off Island Valid D/L	$ 15.00	$ 30.00
Renewal	$ 15.00	$ 30.00
Penalty after 30 working days	$ 10.00	$ 20.00
Duplicate	$ 5.00	$ 10.00
Extension Permit	$ 5.00	$ 10.00
Change of Information	$ 5.00	$ 10.00
Taxi License - New	$ 15.00	$ 10.00
Taxi – Renewal	$ 15.00	$ 30.00
Off Island Driving Record	$ 2.00	$ 4.00
Vehicle Registration Fees		
Bicycles	$ 1.50	$ 3.00
Mopeds/Motorcycles up to 100 cc,	$ 5.00	$ 10.00
Motorcycles over 100cc	$ 10.00	$ 20.00
Taxi Operators	$ 75.00	$ 150.00
Pickups, jeeps, sedan and other motor vehicles not exceeding six passengers or one-half ton capacity and weighing less than 2,000 pounds,	$ 25.00	$ 50.00
Trucks, buses, self-propelled equipment and machinery by weight in pounds as specified by the manufacturer at the time of the original sale or entry into the Commonwealth, which ever is greater:		
(a) Under 2,999 pounds or fraction thereof,	$ 25.00	$ 50.00
(b) 3,000 to 4,999 pounds or fraction thereof,	$ 50.00	$ 100.00
(c) 5,000 to 7,499 pounds or fraction thereof,	$ 100.00	$ 200.00
(d) 7,500 pounds and over	$ 200.00	$ 400.00
Low boys	$ 25.00	$ 50.00
Duplicate Registration Card/ Certificate of Ownership	$ 5.00	$ 10.00
Lost/Stolen License Plates	$ 5.00	$ 10.00
Safety Sticker (decal)	$ 5.00	$ 10.00
Heavy Equipment/Bus L/P	$ 10.00	$ 20.00
Motor Vehicle Inspection Station Facility Permit		
New & Renewal	$ 100.00	$ 200.00
Inspector Certificate	$ 100.00	$ 200.00
Vessel & Jet Ski		
New/Import/Renewal	$ 10.00	$ 20.00
Duplicate - Regis./Title	$ 2.00	$ 4.00
Firearms & Record Section Fees		
Police Report per page	$ 1.00	$ 2.00
Finger Printing		
• Firearms	$10.00 set of 2	$20.00 set of 2
• Employment	$10.00 set of 2	$20.00 set of 2
• Teachers	$24.00 set of 2	$48.00 set of 2
• Taxicab	$24.00 set of 2	$48,00 set of 2
Firearms I.D. Renewal	$25.00 per I.D.	$50.00 per I.D.
Firearms/Dealer/Manufacturer or Wholesaler License		
New & Renewal	$ 300.00	$ 600.00
Employees License	$ 25.00	$ 50.00
Shooting Gallery Range License	$ 5,000.00	$ 10,000.00
Range Safety Officer	$ 25.00	$ 50.00
Driver Education School License		
New/Renewal	$ 100.00	$ 200.00
Instructor License	$ 50.00	$ 100.00

The Department of Public Safety also reminds everyone that Public Law 15-25 "The Mandatory Driver Education School" takes effect on June 2, 2008.

For questions you may have, please call DPS, Division of Motor Vehicles at 664-9066/9068/9069/9070.

Kittens up for adoption

PAWS has numerous kittens up for adoption!

On Friday, May 30, 2008, a Saipan resident found a box taped shut on the side of the road on Navy Hill. The box contained four kittens that are estimated to be around 5-6 weeks old.

"We know people are desperate to find homes for animals, but to go to this extreme is cruel. Call PAWS at 285-PAWS and we will help you find a home for unwanted animals," said PAWS president Katie Busenkell.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the four kittens that were rescued.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A male kitten that is thought to be about 6-8 weeks old, with beautiful markings and a perfect pet for a family with no other animals.

The kittens appear to be healthy and happy at their foster home. If you are interested in fostering and/or adopting one of these playful and loving kittens, contact Rachell via email at rachell.miles@gmail.com or at 322-2104 or 286-7909.

Also available for adoption is a male kitten that is thought to be about 6-8 weeks old.

"He has beautiful markings and would be a perfect cat for a family with no other animals," said PAWS vice President Melissa Simms who is fostering the animal. If you are interested in adopting this kitten, contact Melissa at melissasimms56@hotmail.com, 234-1253 or 285-PAWS. ***(PAWS)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano—the "Benito Clan"—that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at the residence of John and Michelle Tagabuel in Pasgua Court, Dandan, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information you may contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (PR)

New Call-A-Ride bus chedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities is informing all Call-A-Ride customers of the new Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

- Monday to Saturday: 6am to 9pm
- Sunday: Off

The bus fee is $2 one way and $4 for round trip

Contact Willdrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell number 483-9013/9078. ***(PR)***

Rota public hearing rescheduled

The time scheduled for the public hearing of the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations scheduled on June 7, 2008 from 8am to 5pm has been rescheduled from 8am to 2pm only.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive testimonies on several pending legislations that include putting the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before the voters of the CNMI, to authorize the election of an Attorney General; amending the Constitution to require the adoption of an annual budget, and to create a new immigration category for long-term alien workers.

Interested members of the public may submit written testimony to the Committee on or before June 30, 2008.

Copies of the legislation may be obtained at the Office of Representative Santos or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its monthly general membership meeting today, June 4, Saipan World Resort ballroom.

The six recipients of the Chamber's 2008 scholarships will be introduced in today's meeting. These six college-bound students were chosen from among a record-setting group of 28 eligible applicants, all of whom were interviewed by the Scholarship Committee over a two-week period.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, meeting fees are $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the general public. . ***(PR)***

Democratic Party meeting today

The Democratic Party (NMI) will hold a general membership meeting today, Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 6pm at the Garapan Central Park. Important matters to be discussed, including the reorganization of the Central Executive Committee and upcoming CNMI delegate election.

S&NISWCD meeting in June

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their monthly meeting S&NISWCD meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 1pm at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information contact our office at 234-6180. ***(PR)***

MHS Class on 1988 meeting on June 5

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting again on June 5, 2008, 6:30pm at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School.

It was decided on Thursday, May 15, 2008, meeting to extend the dateline for payments to June 5, 2008. Classmates are being encouraged to turn in there payments by then.You can contact our Treasurer Ms. Melissa D. Diaz at 285-2624. ***(PR)***

Vendors sought for Games, tournament

The 2008 Oceania Games will be held on June 21-28, 2008 at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Asia Pacific Little League Tournament will be held on June 25 through July 6, 2008 at the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field.

In consideration of these upcoming special events, interested vendors who wish to sell food, snacks and drinks (no alcoholic beverages allowed) during these games are requested to submit/fax their proposals to the Sports and Recreation Office at 664-2510 no later than Friday, June 13, 2008 for consideration. Concessionaires are limited to only six vendors. ***(PR)***

Green Meadow School announcements

Green Meadow School opens their Summer Classes for SY 2007-2008. They are offering Computer, Music, Art and the 3'Rs (Reading, Writing & Arithmetic) for the following two sessions:

- First Sessions: June 2 - July 4, 2008 (5 weeks)
- Second Session: July 7 - Aug. 8, 2008 (5 weeks)
- Fees: $200/per session (whole day); $100/per session (half day)

Enrollment for School Year 2008 - 2009 is now going on! School starts Aug. 11, 2008. ***(PR)***

New schedule for public library

The following is the new schedule of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library:

- Monday-CLOSED
- Tuesday-9am-5pm
- Wednesday-9am-5pm
- Thursday-9am-5pm
- Friday-9am-5pm
- Saturday-9am-5pm
- Sunday-CLOSED
- Government Holidays-CLOSED

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 4, 1999

Businessmen call for more reforms

Amid the economic crisis besetting the Northern Marianas, business groups believe that the CNMI government has been very slow in implementing measures that will improve the island's investment climate. Since he assumed power 16 months ago, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has been battling the effects of Asia's financial crisis on the tourism economy, renewed threats of a federal takeover on labor and immigration and the negative publicity in connection with allegations on labor abuses.

Slow-paced reforms blamed for CNMI's image problem

The Northern Marianas is slowly suffering from credibility problem in the mainland because of dilly-dallying by island leaders on reforms they have promised to undertake, according to Juan N. Babauta, CNMI's resident representative to Washington. In his annual State of the Washington Office report, Babauta blamed this credibility issue as well as the strategy the Commonwealth has taken for the growing attempts in the U.S. Congress to alter the Covenant.

Rota to Tinian: We will do better

Unveiling an ambitious casino project for Rota, Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona yesterday vowed that he would try to improve on Tinian's experience in order to ensure the success of the planned gambling business in the island municipality. He also brushed aside fears that the proposal would unfairly compete with the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, saying they just want a share of the economic windfall of the gambling industry.

JUNE 4, 2001

Another gubernatorial tandem

After offering Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez to be his running mate which fizzled, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan is rumored to have asked Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero (Kumoi) to be his partner in the November polls. Mr. Guerrero is scheduled to meet with Mr. Sablan's supporters to discuss the proposal and other recommendations prior to making a decision.

Pierce is new SCC president

Richard A. Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Garment Manufacturing Association has been elected President of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Thursday. "I plan to serve the business community and in turn the CNMI as a whole as best I can as President of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce," Mr. Pierce said.

Securing housing loans: Only 35 percent of applicants qualify

Helping applicants secure loans for the first family house is a problem in the NMI, according to NMHC Chairman Juan S. Tenorio. Tenorio said in a recent interview that of the more than 1,000 current applicants for housing loans in the Commonwealth, only about 35 percent can qualify under the terms and requirements of the banks participating in the agency's housing programs.

JUNE 4, 2002

Japanese firm buys La Fiesta Mall

A Japanese company bought the La Fiesta Mall in San Roque from Japan Airlines last month, amid a weak business scenario that forced several boutiques in the shopping center to close down. JAL, which also owns and operates Hotel Nikko-Saipan, signed the purchase contract with Coco's Lagoon Development Corporation last May 20, 2002, transferring the ownership of the 32,000-square-meter property in San Roque to the Japan-based firm. La Fiesta Mall General Manager Toshiro Arai explained that, although the structure had been sold to Coco's Lagoon Development, the management and administration of the shopping mall remains with JAL.

Senators welcome OPA inquiry

Members of the Senate minority bloc welcomed the chamber-wide audit that Senate President Paul A. Manglona asked of the Office of the Public Auditor, saying Manglona actually jumped the gun on them as they were just about to ask the OPA the same thing. Senate Minority Leader Pete P. Reyes described the Senate President's move as good and "I am glad the Senate President asked for that."

Law school, NMI High Court tie up for internship program

The CNMI Supreme Court and John Marshall Law School have established a cooperative academic program that seeks to provide practical legal experiences to motivated and capable law students.

The first law intern is Daniel C. Stafford, a third-year law student from Atlanta, Georgia, who will spend five weeks in the Supreme Court.

Stafford is a legislative history author for the John Marshall Law Journal and is academically ranked in the top of his class. During his stay, he will be assisting the Supreme Court law clerks with legal research and writing.

Stafford began his internship on Monday and expressed his excitement for the program and his new position at the Court. He said, "I am honored to have the opportunity to work alongside such talented and respected attorneys and justices, and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead."

The internship program was the brainchild of Kathleen Burch, assistant dean of Academic Affairs for John Marshall Law School, who met with the Supreme Court justices last July to begin discussions on establishing the program.

Both the NMI Judiciary and John Marshall are excited about the potential growth of the volunteer program in future summers, as it provides hands-on experience for the students, and gives court staff valuable additional assistance. ***(PR)***

Japanese, Thai royals to attend Tonga coronation

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (TBC/PIR)—The Crown Prince of Japan, Prince Naruhito and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand have confirmed that they will be in Nuku'alofa for the Coronation of King George Tupou V on August 1.

The Deputy Secretary of Tonga's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tevita Kolo, confirmed yesterday the attendance of the royals.

He said the Duke and Duchess of Glouster of the British royal family have also confirmed their attendance at the Coronation.

There are other Royal families in Europe that have been officially invited but at this stage they have not confirmed their attendance, said the Deputy Secretary.

Meanwhile, King George Tupou V is currently in Hong Kong and has also extended official invitations to other Royal families such as the royals of Norway, the Netherlands, Monaco and Bhutan.

King George Tupou V will visit each of the outer islands of Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua and the two Niuas following his coronation.

The outer islands will hold their own celebrations, a week after the main celebration concludes in Tongatapu.

The Contract Officer for the Coronation at the Prime Minister's Office, Lupe 'Ilaiu, said that it is the king's consent that the people from the outer islands remain at their island home instead of traveling down to the capital.

NMC names Dr. Debra Cabrera to dean post

The Northern Marianas College announced yesterday the appointment of Debra T. Cabrera, Ph.D., as dean of Academic Programs and Services.

Cabrera, who had been carrying out the duties of the dean of Academic Programs and Services in an acting capacity for the last five months, was selected among a pool of other highly qualified candidates to permanently fill the position. Her chief responsibilities include overseeing six academic departments and ensuring that all students' academic needs are sufficiently met.

"Dr. Cabrera's appointment is timely and vital as we move forward with NMC's effort to obtain full accreditation," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "She brings a wealth of knowledge, talent, and experience to the management team."

Prior to becoming dean of Academic Programs and Services, Cabrera served in various academic positions at NMC, the University of Kentucky, and Ohio University. Most recently she worked as a social sciences instructor in NMC's Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department. Currently, Cabrera is also the Accreditation Liaison Officer for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities.

A graduate of Mr. Carmel High School, Cabrera attended college classes at the Northern Marianas College, University of Wisconsin in Madison, and later earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Washington State University. She graduated with her master's degree in sociology from Ohio University in 1994 and later earned a doctorate degree in sociology from the University of Kentucky in 2001.

Dr. Debra Cabrera, dean of Academic Programs and Services. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Over the last several months, the college has made significant progress in strengthening our administrative capacity, which has been an issue that the ACCJC have warned us about repeatedly," Dr. Fernandez said. "Having more experienced and highly competent leadership team members like Dr. Cabrera will greatly aid the college's accreditation efforts."

Other recent additions to the NMC management team include Wil Castro, director of Institutional Effectiveness, who was hired in February 2008, and Daisy Villagomez-Bier, dean of Student Services, who joined in December 2007. The other management team members are Tee Abraham, dean of COMPASS; Adrian Atalig, director of Information Technology; Mark Mendiola, director of Institutional Advancement; Martin Mendiola, Rota Instructional Site Program Coordinator; and Maria Aguon, Tinian Instructional Site Program Coordinator. ***(NMC)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A chilling forecast

There's always a new report about global warming, but the one released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with its charts on optimal temperatures for soybeans and peanuts, is downright creepy in its detail. This isn't your usual futuristic fodder, with vague but dire predictions. The USDA report is more frightening because it states matter-of-factly the practical changes in farming, forestry and water that are transforming the landscape now and will do so again over the next few decades.

The Senate is scheduled to vote this week on a sweeping bill that would require carbon emissions to be slashed 70 percent by mid-century. Its chances for passage are slim; President Bush opposes it, as he has opposed all meaningful attempts to curb global warming, on the grounds that it would harm the economy. He ought to read the USDA study, along with a similar but more comprehensive report released last week by his science advisers, which specifies the effects of global warming and its very real costs.

The USDA analysis points out the quandary we're already in after decades of inaction: The impacts during the next few decades are unavoidable. "Much of this change will be caused by greenhouse gas emissions that have already happened," the report says. In other words, we have to plan for adjusting to climate change, as well as preventing it from spiraling into a crisis in this century and beyond.

Though the report stops short of making recommendations, it implies the need for major shifts in agriculture. And there was some good news, though not as much as the bad. Northern latitudes will experience milder winters—good for cattle—and longer growing seasons, but also longer lifetimes for harmful pests. The South might grow too hot for traditional crops such as peanuts and watermelon. The eastern United States will get more rain, but weeds, flourishing in the presence of increased carbon dioxide, will migrate north. Crops that require cold snaps are in trouble.

The prognosis for California is especially discouraging. With a smaller snowpack and less rain, the state will experience longer and more severe droughts. Some crops in the San Joaquin and Salinas valleys might find higher temperatures intolerable, threatening the state's status as a food bowl for the nation. California, though stymied by federal regulators, has led the nation in trying to combat greenhouse gases. But it has been slower to take practical steps to adapt to the warming it can't prevent. The state cannot put off water conservation measures, and with longer and more dangerous fire seasons, it cannot afford to permit increased sprawl into forests and brush areas.

At the national level, the report should awaken the agriculture sector to the disruption ahead. If the farm lobby, which is powerful enough to continually win wasteful subsidies even though they benefit only a tiny minority, were to team up with environmentalists, imagine what they could do to fight climate change.

© 2008, Los Angeles Times

The need to be right

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

All manners of assertions
criticisms and the like,
are mostly said so we can say
"You see there? I was right!"

So much of all our earthly ills
and heartaches that we face
are caused by us replaying
tapes we really should replace

It blocks all human progress
makes us trade plowshares for guns
keeps addicts in denial
and turns mothers against sons

And those whose views you trample
and who leave feeling "less than"
leave not with warm intentions
but with vengeance as their plan

But ask yourself, "What outcomes
might my words produce instead
If rather than choose conflict
to myself I simply said:

"I'll let you keep your dignity
and self-esteem intact
We'll both be free to choose new ways
to be and interact

And though we won't agree
or see eye to eye on everything
I'm open to the change and growth
this new outlook will bring

It's just a pyrrhic victory**
being "right" at your expense
a love that's based on right or wrong
is naught but false pretense

So from this moment onward
despite how it's always been
I know I won't always be right
but now I know I'll always win!"

COMMENTARY: The need to be right. It takes many forms in our lives. We often hold views and opinions about people and situations (e.g. "All engineers are geeks", or "It's too hard to start my own business") that serve us in some way. They keep us safe and feeling protected so we never have to venture out into the unknown and risk what we've come to know as "failure."

The need to be right comes up in our interpersonal relationships. We hold on to images of others and ourselves, of past hurts, errors in judgments, mistakes, so that we can feel justified in our suffering. We can blame others for our present conditions and never have to face the responsibility for changing them.

The need to be right justifies our interactions with strangers. We can lash out at drives who cut us off on the highway, shoppers who try to jump ahead in line, all because "we're in the right, and they're wrong, so we won't give in." Think of all the energy you've wasted over the past year defending your delusions, asserting your dominance, justifying your judgments, while diminishing others' own self-esteem by your need to prove them wrong and prove yourself right.

You say: I'm smart. I'm in control. You were wrong. I was right. He is bad. I am a victim. The world is evil. They don't understand. Things are difficult. I always lose at this game. And, when the world turns out just as you believe it to be, you get to say, "See, I was right!"

SUGGESTION: So from now on, instead of asking, "How can I be right today?" ask instead, "What can I learn? Whom can I help? Knowing that the only way I can truly succeed and raise my own self-esteem is by raising the self-esteem of others, how can I support [name of person] in his/her journey without making them feel "less than?" What new ways of understanding people, situations, and myself are being presented to me? What interpretations of these situations will aid my growth and development, rather than reinforce stereotypes fears and animosity? Is this really important enough for me to fight for? Will the energy I expend in proving my point get me the willing support, admiration and warm wishes of my "adversary", or is there another way?"

You might be surprised at what new realities you can create when you give up your need to be right!

Note: *For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com*

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Rebuilding the NMI economy with a delegate who understands: What is needed

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

I can't imagine anyone residing or doing business in the Commonwealth at this time who is not concerned over the deteriorating condition of the economy while at the same time coping with inflationary pressure on disposable income, which continues to increase with the cancerous effect of decreasing the standard of living of most people.

As a retiree I'm certainly concerned as we are told that the Fund could be exhausted in less than 10 years or so. In part this is a result of the deterioration of the islands' private sector tax base influencing the central government's inability to make its employer contributions and other payments due the Fund. If you don't have a vibrant and growing economy, the result is either accept a stagnant economy at current or even reduced levels of economic activity and slip ever backwards to become weaker and weaker.

Of the several solutions advanced to improve the islands' economic situation, few seem to have been embraced. That leads me to the election of the delegate to the U.S. Congress and the placement of an individual at that end of the political spectrum in Washington who knows the helpful contributions Congress can make in advancing economic growth on the islands. Providing, of course, those contributions are effectively introduced to gain congressional favor.

Other than perhaps age, citizenship, residence and being a registered voter in the NMI, I would doubt there will be any other criteria established for candidate eligibility for the delegate to Congress. And I doubt if any particular level of experience or knowledge are required factors in running for the office which, in my opinion, there certainly should be some level of appropriate background and experience. Hopefully, such traits would ideally become the full measure of the best qualified aspirant in November. Hopefully, that is.

As we have seen, the decline in the economy effects everyone—retired or not, government or private sector employee, business owner or potential investor. The long-term financial health of everyone: government employees, retirees, private entrepreneurs and workers depends on a healthy, growing and vibrant private sector economy providing jobs that pay more than the minimum wage.

Certainly any growing economy will also require government provided services in such areas as education, hospital, police and fire protection and so on. This is where successful experience in the private sector is so important and where it becomes apparent, indeed, essential to have a delegate in the U.S. Congress who understands what the NMI economy needs, what its growth potential is and how the islands can cooperate with agencies of the U.S. government as a productive partner in a self-governing, economically self-sufficient manner with the United States of America.

In my view the person who can do that in Washington is David M. Sablan. Unlike many who may claim 15 to 20 years of political experience which in reality is often only one year's experience 15 or 20 times over, Dave doesn't have to waste time learning "on-the-job" he already knows what needs to be done as a delegate.

His vast experience, which includes banking and finance, is too lengthy to even summarize in the space available. In addition to his business and government experience his assignments have included: serving the 702 negotiating team and the commission on federal laws as appointed by President Ronald Reagan. He was the chairman of Employer's Support for Guards and Reserve in the CNMI and was voted "Micronesia's Executive of the Year in 2005."

If the youth of the NMI are to remain and develop their careers at home with their families in the islands—and those who have already left can be convinced to return once again to be with their families and loved ones—they must have good paying jobs and excellent educational opportunities. The NMI's major export must not be its youth in search for better jobs off island.

There is no way around it—the CNMI's delegate simply must know what is needed and what will work to get the economy moving again whether it's a government assistance program, new legislation providing the islands with a comparative advantage of some sort as yet identified through special investment incentive legislation or whatever.

If you believe, as I do, that the economy is the No. 1 issue, ask yourself if a person with a proven track record in providing jobs for the community would be the best choice as a delegate to Congress, which just happens to be the major benefactor of the islands? If so, that person has to be at the top of the list. A person who also knows that not all laws and programs designed for a continental landmass on the other side of the world in the western hemisphere by the United States Congress will always transfer easily to an island economy situated in the eastern hemisphere without some degree of modification and adaptation.

Being the farthest star out in America's Pacific galaxy, the Marianas geographic position on the doorstep of Asia has economic and political advantages largely unrealized by many in the U.S. Congress other than perhaps those associated with military issues. The NMI's delegate must work to overcome this deficiency in congressional knowledge and clearly articulate the needs and aspirations of the islands to those representatives who may never visit the islands.

When I called the office of one U.S. senator to obtain some information and mentioned Saipan, the first remark made by staff was, "Is that the island once associated with Jack Abramoff?" How's that for name recognition and knowledge of the NMI! That must be corrected. I ask you: Who is better qualified to support that effort in Washington?

So I'll cut to it. In my judgment if you want a dedicated delegate in Washington working hard for the NMI—a person focused on the future and the long-term welfare of the Commonwealth—that person is David M. Sablan.

I do not know if he plans to run for the office or not. If is does, great. If he doesn't, then at least his achievements and his credentials as I know them to be can serve as a measuring benchmark for comparison by the voters as to the caliber of the representative needed in Washington to get the job done with honesty, integrity and dedication.

Let's hope he decides to run as a delegate.

Editor's Note: *The personal preference expressed by the author are his own. They are totally unsolicited and unknown to David M. Sablan who has no prior knowledge of Mr. Stewart's point of view. The author is not even aware Mr. Sablan has any interest in a Washington assignment. However, with many years of economic development experience and as a long-time observer and participant in the NMI's economy, Stewart exercises his right to an opinion as to who he believes will do a good job in Washington for the people of the Commonwealth and for himself as a retiree and an eventual returning resident.*

For female candidates, latent biases matter

By CATHY TINSLEY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Last month it became increasingly clear that Hillary Clinton may no longer be within reach of the Democratic presidential nomination. While it is uncertain when Clinton's historic candidacy will actually end, many in the media and in political circles are debating the role sexism played in her defeat.

How did the once-inevitable candidate, who was destined to be America's first female president, lose this nomination battle? Was it her past? Was it her husband? Or is America just not ready for a female president?

Although it's difficult to draw definitive conclusions, behavior and attitudes in the corporate sphere shed some light on the answers to these questions. Unfortunately, the picture suggests we still have work to do.

In a series of studies involving hundreds of participants since 2005, my colleagues and I have found systematic social and financial backlash against even mildly assertive female executives. In one study, for example, people judged the behavior of a hypothetical human resources manager (alternately male or female) negotiating for a refund on unused hotel space. Female managers were judged as significantly more offensive, and less likely to receive any refund, than male managers, even though all managers engaged in exactly the same behavior. In later studies in which human resources managers asked for a refund, displaying mildly assertive behavior, the behavior was routinely judged appropriate when displayed by a man but offensive when displayed by a woman.

In another set of experiments, a finance director (again, alternately a man or a woman) had to choose between attending to a work crisis (an information technology system crash) or a family emergency (a sick child). When the finance director was female and chose to stay at work, she was seen as competent but unlikable. When the female finance director went home, she was rated as incompetent but likable. Yet the choices male finance directors made did not matter—the men were always judged to be fairly likable and competent.

The bottom line, again, is that the same male and female behaviors evoke different judgments, with women all too often being forced to choose between being viewed as likable or competent.

Although I think, and hope, that we are more or less past the time when women are denied opportunities in politics, sports or business, the results of these studies do not suggest an end to discriminatory attitudes. Americans still appear to perceive and evaluate men and women differently even when they engage in the same behavior.

Two other lessons stood out. First, the backlash against women appears to be unconscious. When confronted with the results of these studies, participants were very surprised by their reactions. They appeared to have no idea that they subscribed to these gender stereotypes about appropriate behavior or that they judged women more harshly.

Second, women were as willing to criticize the female executives as men were. This is not a gender war; women are not fighting men. They are fighting our culture, our prescribed set of norms that constrain their behavior into a rigid set of "appropriate" categories. Although we may be able to recall vivid examples of minorities who judge their own group harshly, women are perhaps the only "low status" group whose members systematically and every bit as harshly show prejudice toward fellow members.

As we close the book on Hillary Clinton's campaign and what was to be the first female presidency, we are forced to reassess. Are we ready yet?

The writer, a professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, is executive director of the Georgetown Women's Leadership Initiative.

IN MEMORY

Father Gary Bradley, S.J.

October 21, 1946 - June 4, 2000
Former Pastor of Kristo Rai Parish
Vicar General of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

There is an old proverb, "When the heart is full, the eyes overflow."

And so it is when we remember our friend, Father Gary Bradley. Our feelings and those of many on Saipan honor his memory.

"Life's clock is wound but once,
And no person has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At a late or early hour."

Our earthly lives—not unlike time itself—has no harbor, it has no shore. Like the ocean tide it rushes on and carries us with it. Life—time—and tide waits for no one. Leaving us to enjoy each fugitive hour, each passing year, with memories of a dear friend.

The lengthening shadows on all our lives remind us of the darkening shade of time on each of us and those of our friends long departed and marked by the dusk of each passing day.

We say to the memory of Father Bradley

- even when the bulb of the hourglass shatters, we will remember you;
- when darkness withholds the shadow from the sundial, we will remember you;
- when the mainspring winds down so far that the clock hands hold still, we will remember you.

We know from life's message that time flies and draws us with it. The moment in which we contemplate his friendship is already far from us just as that Sunday morning eight years past.

Ann and Bill Stewart
& Kathryn McDonald

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲84° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

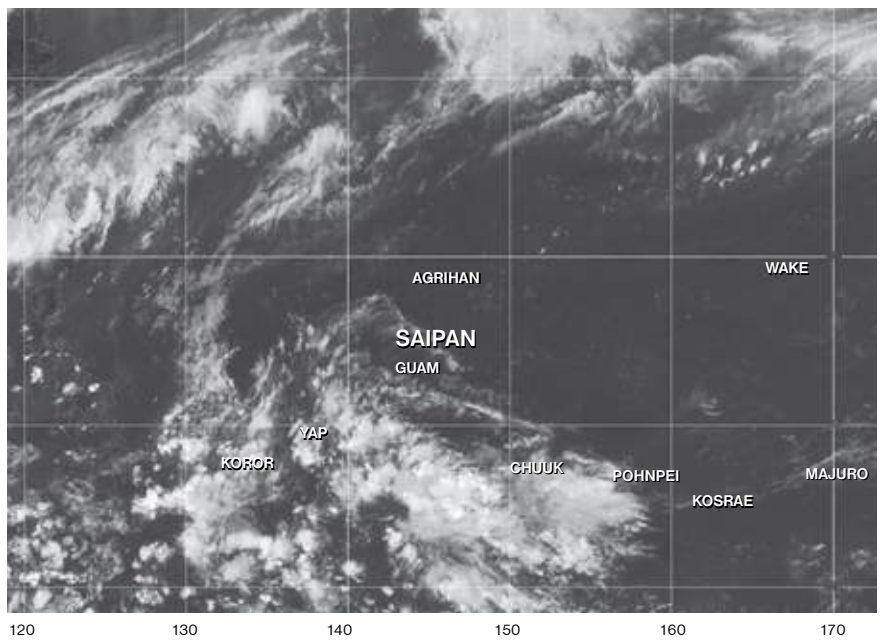
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲88	▼65
Hong Kong	Rain	▲82	▼77
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲82	▼74
London	Showers	▲72	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲75	▼59
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Miami	Showers	▲87	▼78
New York	Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Osaka	Showers	▲75	▼65
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼52
Pusan	Showers	▲72	▼62
Rome	Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲71	▼58
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼68
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲82	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends northeastward from 21N132E to 25N139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front. An upper-level trough stretches northeastward from EQ130E to Koror at 7N134E to 15N135E. Convergent trade-winds are combining with this trough to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror between the equator and 10N from 130E to 135E and between the equator and 5N from 135E to 140E. Also within 100 miles of a line southwest of Guam from 10N141E to 14N138E. A few surface troughs embedded in convergent trade-wind flow are associated with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 140E to 150E and between 2N and 8N from 150E to 157E. This area includes Chuuk.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:41AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:31AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:07PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:25PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:45PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:45PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:43AM	7:22PM
Thursday	6:50AM	8:28PM
Friday	7:58AM	9:26PM
Saturday	9:03AM	10:18PM
Sunday	10:04AM	11:03PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,711.70
Down 69.50
(-1.20%)

HONG KONG
24,286.47
Down 544.89
(-2.19%)

JAKARTA
2,410.75
Down 17.02
(-0.70%)

TOKYO
14,160.50
Down 279.64
(-1.94%)

K. LUMPUR
1,262.49
Down 13.61
(-1.07%)

MANILA
2,782.80
Down 43.09
(-1.52%)

SINGAPORE
3,151.01
Down 37.04
(-1.16%)

SEOUL
1,816.70
Down 30.83
(-1.67%)

BANGKOK
578.34
Down 1.99
(-0.34%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,503.82
-1.06%

NASDAQ
2,491.53
-1.23%

S&P
1,385.67
-1.05%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0484
British Pound	0.5098
Canadian Dollar	1.0018
Chinese Renmbi	6.9265
Euro	0.6442
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8036
Indian Rupee	42.525
Indonesian Rupiah	9,317.5
Japanese Yen	104.32
Malaysian Ringgit	3.223
New Zealand Dollar	1.2758
Philippine Peso	43.655
Singapore Dollar	1.3634
South Korean Won	1013.6
Swiss Franc	1.0373
Taiwan Dollar	30.32
Thailand Baht	32.66

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Gas prices hold the line below $4

NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline held steady near an average $3.98 a gallon at the pump Monday as a recent slide in oil futures stalled gas' advance to the $4 mark. Oil prices, meanwhile, rose modestly on concerns about heating oil supplies and after an OPEC official said there's no need for the cartel to pump more oil.

At the pump, the national average price of a gallon of regular gas was unchanged at $3.975, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service, matching a record set Sunday. Light, sweet crude for July delivery rose 41 cents to settle at $127.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier Monday, oil futures fell nearly $10 below a trading record of $135.09 reached May 22.

But while gas prices did not rise overnight, they are up 1.3 cents a gallon since Friday, and may continue rising regardless of what oil futures do.

"If crude comes off, that will not necessarily translate into lower prices for gasoline at the pumps," said Linda Rafield, senior oil analyst at Platts, the energy research arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

That's because gas supplies have been falling even as summer driving demand picks up. Demand is lower than it was this time last year, according to Energy Department data and a number of driver surveys in recent days. But gas is always in higher demand over the summer than during the rest of the year.

Gas prices are already higher than $4 in many parts of the country, and average more than that in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

However, continued declines in oil prices would remove one of the reasons gas prices are near $4 on a national basis. And that could lead to lower prices as the summer wears on. Gasoline typically peaks in price near Memorial Day, then declines over the summer.

AP

Robbie Sutton, an employee with Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Transportation Department, fills a bus with diesel fuel at Southern Nash High School in Bailey, N.C., Thursday, May 29, 2008.

Stocks down after tepid economic data, bank woes

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street retreated Monday on more signs of economic weakness and executive shake-ups at two major banks - reminders of the ongoing fallout from the credit crisis. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 130 points.

S&P's review of the financial sector suggested there could be more write-downs coming, though likely not as large as in recent quarters, and "further sharp deterioration" in mortgage loan portfolios and residential construction."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 134.50, or 1.06 percent, to 12,503.82, after gaining last week on better-than-expected economic data and a pullback in oil prices. The blue chip index had shed more than 200 points during the session.

Broader stock indicators also dropped Monday. The S&P 500 index fell 14.71, or 1.05 percent, to 1,385.67. The Nasdaq composite index fell 31.13, or 1.23 percent, to 2,491.53.

Manufacturing, construction founder; even as prices rise

NEW YORK (AP)—Dark clouds continue to hang over the economy: The manufacturing sector shrank for the fourth consecutive month, construction spending has been falling for more than two years, future orders are down and prices are skyrocketing.

The few bright spots, such as strong exports, may be the only things between us and a protracted recession, analysts said on Monday.

"It's exports, and, of course, government spending, that's keeping us above water," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wachovia Corp.

The Institute for Supply Management said Monday that its manufacturing index rose to 49.6 from 48.6 percent in April. It beat expectations of 47.9, according to the consensus estimate of Wall Street economists surveyed by Thomson Financial/IFR.

Still, it was below a reading of 50, signaling that business for machine-tool makers, chemical producers, food companies and many other industries are contracting.

And it appears activity could continue to shrink. Order backlogs, an indication of future work, fell 5.5 percentage points lower than April.

AP

In this May 19, 2008 file photo, construction workers install steel bars on the foundation of the Freedom Tower in New York.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FedEx to drop Kinko's name, take $891M charge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—FedEx Corp. said Monday it plans to stop using the Kinko's name on its copy and office service stores and book an $891 million charge for the quarter that ended Saturday. The charge relates to the value of the Kinko's name and a write-down of the value of its acquisition of the brand. The charge, which works out to $2.22 a share, was not part of FedEx's earnings forecast. The company early last month cut its outlook to $1.45 to $1.50 per share, down from $1.60 to $1.80, because of increasing fuel costs. FedEx reports its financial results for the fiscal fourth quarter June 18. The company said it will change the name of its FedEx Kinko's stores to FedEx Office over the next several years.

Wachovia board forces out CEO Ken Thompson

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Less than a month after losing his chairman post, and more than two years after an ill-timed acquisition of California mortgage lender Golden West Financial Corp., Wachovia Corp. said Monday that board members have forced CEO Ken Thompson to retire from the nation's fourth-largest bank. The board of the Charlotte-based bank said it asked Thompson to leave a few days ago, and acted Sunday to replace him on an interim basis with Chairman Lanty Smith. Smith replaced Thompson as chairman last month in a move the bank said "strengthens independent leadership" at the company.

Brocade to pay $160M to settle options lawsuit

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Brocade Communications Systems Inc. has agreed to pay the plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit $160 million to settle allegations the networking equipment maker hurt investors by tampering with stock options, the company said Monday. Two former Brocade executives were convicted on criminal charges in the scheme. Resolving Brocade's backdating of stock options meant wiping out hundreds of millions of dollars in profits the company had reported for 1999 through 2004. San Jose-based Brocade said the settlement of the class-action lawsuit initially filed by the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System was in the best interest of current shareholders because it helps put a damaging chapter in the company's history behind it. The settlement still must be approved by the court.

Dow Chemical settles lawsuit with former employees

MIDLAND, Mich. (AP)—Dow Chemical Co. said Monday it has settled all litigation between the corporation and two former executives who were fired for participating in unauthorized buyout discussions. J. Pedro Reinhard and Romeo Kreinberg acknowledged participating in discussions that were not authorized by, nor disclosed to, Dow's board of directors concerning a potential leveraged buyout of the company, and agreed they should have informed the chief executive and the board of the discussions. Reinhard, a former senior adviser and chief financial officer, and Kreinberg, a former divisional executive vice president, also acknowledged that their termination was appropriate under the circumstances. The board subsequently acknowledged Reinhard and Kreinberg's "substantial contributions" to the company over the length of their careers there.

Nation

Families separated by raid on sect are reunited

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—More than 400 children taken from a polygamist sect's ranch two months ago began returning to the arms of their tearful parents Monday, hours after a judge bowed to a state Supreme Court ruling that the seizure was not justified.

"It's just a great day," said Nancy Dockstader, whose chin quivered and eyes filled with tears as she embraced her 9-year-old daughter, Amy, outside a foster-care center in Gonzales, about 65 miles east of San Antonio. "We're so grateful."

Amid the joy, a church elder announced a shift in sect policy aimed at keeping such a seizure from ever happening again: Future marriages would only involve sect members who were of legal age.

"The church will counsel families that they neither request nor consent to any underage marriages," said elder Willie Jessop, reading from a statement at the ranch in Eldorado.

Jessop said the church has been widely misunderstood and insisted marriages within the church have always been consensual.

He would not say whether marriages of underage minors had taken place in the past but said the sect as a whole should not be punished for the misdeeds of a few.

Roughly 430 children were ordered released after two months in state custody, much of it spent in foster care centers. Because siblings were separated at facilities hundreds of miles apart, it will probably take several days for all the families to be reunited.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., waves after speaking at a rally at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. Sunday, June 1, 2008.

NASA robot scoops Martian soil for 1st time

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NASA's newest spacecraft got down and dirty on Mars, taking its first practice scoop of Martian soil ahead of the actual dig expected later this week, scientists said Monday.

The test dig made Sunday by the Phoenix Mars Lander's 8-foot-long robotic arm uncovered bits of bright specks in the soil believed to be ice or salt.

"We see this nice streak of white material," said Pat Woida, senior engineer at the University of Arizona, Tucson, which is directing the mission. "We don't know what this material is yet."

Phoenix landed in the Martian arctic plains May 25 on a three-month hunt to study whether the far northern latitudes could support primitive life. Its main task is to excavate trenches in the permafrost in search of evidence of past water and organic compounds considered the chemical building blocks of life. The cost of the mission is $420 million.

Close-up images beamed back by the lander over the weekend revealed that its three legs are resting on what appears to be a slab of ice. It apparently was uncovered when the spacecraft's thrusters blew away the topsoil. Also over the weekend, engineers fixed a nagging short-circuit problem on one of the lander's instruments.

AMID SIGNS CLINTON MAY ADMIT LOSS

Obama nears win in Democratic race

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama pushed close to victory in the marathon Democratic presidential race Monday on the eve of a final pair of primaries amid signs that Hillary Rodham Clinton was preparing to acknowledge defeat.

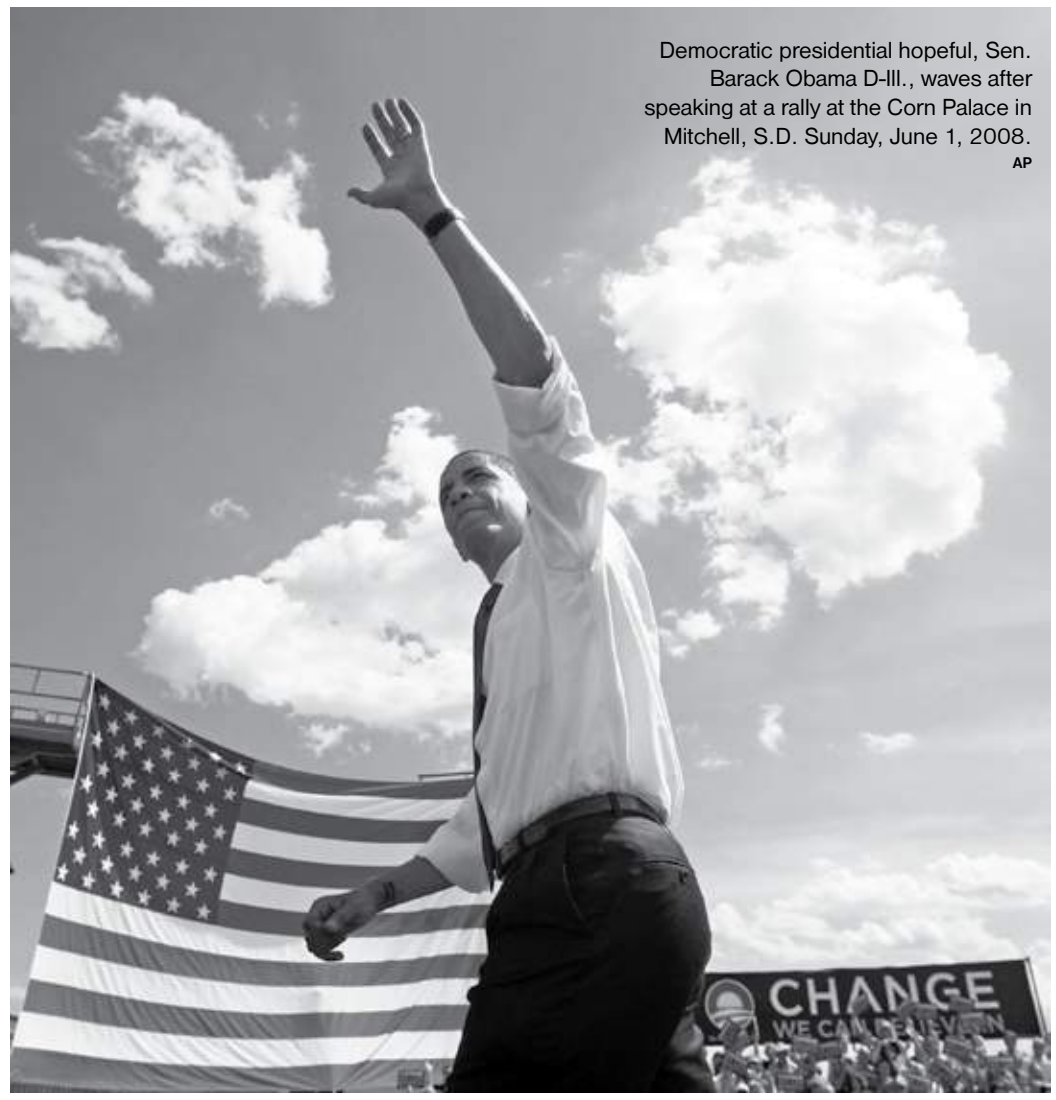
Said a confident-sounding Obama: "I told her that once the dust settled I'm looking forward to meeting with her at a time and place of her choosing." That was from a conversation the two rivals had on Sunday night. He did not describe her response.

He also said he would begin thinking about a vice presidential running mate "the day after I have gotten that last delegate needed to officially claim the nomination."

The former first lady gave no public hint of quitting the race, and she has said repeatedly she might continue her candidacy even beyond the end of the primaries.

But her husband, former President Clinton, strongly suggested otherwise. "This may be the last day I'm ever involved in a campaign of this kind," he said as he worked for his wife in South Dakota.

Obama, bidding to become the first black major party nominee in history, was 41.5 delegates shy of the 2,118, needed to clinch the nomination at the party's convention in Denver, according to The Associated Press count. He gained 5.5 delegates during the day Monday, including Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, a member of the House leadership who scheduled a formal announcement for Tuesday.



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., waves after speaking at a rally at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. Sunday, June 1, 2008.

AP

Obama's aides prodded uncommitted lawmakers and other "superdelegates" to climb on board quickly—as Clinton struggled to hold back the tide.

Rep. Jason Altmire of Pennsylvania, who is uncommitted, said Obama's goal was to be in position to seal the nomination Tuesday night, once the votes are tallied and delegates awarded from primaries in Montana and South Dakota. The first-term congressman, whose district voted for Clinton in the state's April primary, said he would not be immediately joining the endorsers. "I'm not going to do anything before the results tomorrow night," he said.

Clinton, the long-ago frontrunner, was not far behind Obama in delegates. She had 1917.5 after adding two during the day.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chemo and radiation next for Kennedy after surgery

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—After investigating his options with his trademark intensity, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy underwent 3 1/2 hours of risky and exquisitely delicate surgery Monday to cut out as much of his cancerous brain tumor as possible. "I feel like a million bucks. I think I'll do that again tomorrow," the 76-year-old Massachusetts Democrat was quoted by a family spokeswoman as telling his wife immediately afterward. Dr. Allan Friedman, who performed the surgery at Duke University Medical Center, pronounced the operation a success and said it "accomplished our goals." Up next: chemotherapy and radiation, aimed at shrinking whatever is left of the tumor. "The main goal is to remove as much of the tumor as possible to give any other therapy that we do a better chance of working," said Dr. John Sampson, associate deputy director of Duke's brain tumor center.

Officials: Roofers started Universal Studios fire

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—Workers using a blowtorch on the roof of a movie set building facade at Universal Studios accidentally set a huge fire that swept through the back lot, fire officials said Monday. Workers had been using a blowtorch to heat asphalt shingles to apply to the roof early Sunday, said Los Angeles County Fire Chief Michael Freeman. They finished about 3 a.m. and followed policy of standing watch for one hour, then left for a break, he said. A security guard spotted the fire and reported it at 4:43 a.m., Freeman said. The fire erupted on a streetscape featuring New York brownstone facades at the 400-acre property.

Draft plan: FEMA may use trailers in new disaster

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government may house disaster victims in trailers this hurricane season as a last resort, despite promises never to use them again because of high levels of formaldehyde found in trailers used after the Katrina catastrophe. Only the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency could approve the use of such trailers, and they would have to meet the agency's standard for low formaldehyde levels, according to a draft of the agency's five-page 2008 hurricane-season plan, obtained by The Associated Press. Also, disaster victims could stay in the trailers for only six months. Hurricane season started June 1 and will last through November.

NJ husband-wife team accused of leading drug ring

MANALAPAN, N.J. (AP)—A couple ran a cocaine smuggling ring from their fortress-like multimillion-dollar home and amassed so many luxury goods that the wife needed photos to keep track of her 100 pairs of Prada shoes, authorities said Monday. Vicente Esteves, 35, and his wife, Chantal, 30, were arrested on conspiracy and money laundering charges after a 14-month investigation, federal and county officials said. The $1 million-a-week operation used commercial airline flights to move drugs from Mexico and Colombia into the United States and to send millions of dollars back, investigators said.

Guilty plea in ID theft that fueled lavish life

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A handsome, athletic Ivy League graduate admitted in court Monday that he and a girlfriend stole the identities of friends, co-workers and neighbors to finance their luxury lifestyle. As his grim-faced parents looked on, Edward K. Anderton, 25, of Everett, Wash., admitted to federal identity theft charges that likely carry a five-year prison sentence. His ex-girlfriend, 22-year-old Jocelyn Kirsch, is expected to enter a similar plea on Thursday. A federal prosecutor called the pair "the poster children for identity fraud" after police released their travel photos, which show them enjoying lavish trips to the Caribbean, Paris and Hawaii. Anderton said little in court as prosecutors detailed the crimes against more than a dozen victims. He pleaded guilty to six counts, including bank fraud, money laundering and aggravated identity theft.

Asia

Chinese police drag grieving parents from protest vs unsafe school

DUJIANGYAN, China (AP) —Chinese police dragged away more than 100 parents Tuesday while they were protesting the deaths of their children in poorly constructed schools that collapsed in last month's earthquake.

The parents, many holding pictures of their dead children, were pulled down the street away from a courthouse in Dujiangyan, a resort city northeast of the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu.

"Why?" some of them yelled. "Tell us something," they said as black-suited police wearing riot helmets yanked at them.

The parents had been kneeling in front of the courthouse yelling, "We want to sue."

Police dragged an Associated Press reporter and two photographers who covering the protest up the steps into the courthouse, trying to prevent them from seeing the demonstration.

"The parents were here to give their report to the court," said one police officer who refused to give his name.

Calls to local police were not answered Tuesday.

The government says the May 12 earthquake destroyed 7,000 classrooms. Many parents have accused contractors of cutting corners when building the classrooms, resulting in schools that could not withstand the 7.9-magnitude quake. Pictures of collapsed schools surrounded by buildings still standing have fueled anger.

More than 270 students died when one high school collapsed in Juyuan, near Dujiangyan. The Southern Metropolis News quoted a rescuer as saying that rubble from the school showed that no steel reinforcing bars had been used in construction, only iron wire.

6 die in bomb outside Danish Embassy

AP

A Pakistani security official stands amid the rubble of the adjacent building and cars after a bomb explosion outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan on Monday, June 2, 2008.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) —A car bomb exploded outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad on Monday, killing six people and wounding dozens weeks after al-Qaida issued threats against Denmark over the reprinting of a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad.

The blast is likely to lead to Western pressure on Pakistan's new government to roll back its policy of trying to strike deals with militant groups instead of using military force.

The bombing was the worst anti-Danish attack since the Muhammad cartoons first appeared nearly three years ago. At least five and possibly all six of the dead were Pakistanis.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though suspicion quickly fell on al-Qaida. As recently as April, the terror network's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, called for attacks on Danish targets in response to the drawings.

The attacker apparently used a fake diplomatic license plate to get the car near the embassy, according to authorities, who were investigating whether it was a suicide attack. Interior Secretary Kamal Shah said evidence indicated the car was a Toyota Corolla carrying 55 pounds of explosives.

The blast left a huge crater in the road outside the embassy, destroyed nearby vehicles and badly damaged the office of a U.N.-funded development group. A perimeter wall of the embassy collapsed and its metal gate was blown inward, but the embassy building itself remained standing, though its windows were shattered. Several diplomatic buildings and homes also were damaged.

"Pieces of windows, doors and glass hit me, but thank God I didn't get any injuries," said Rizwan Sheikh, a planning specialist for the U.N.-funded Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment.

"Outside the building it was a doomsday scene. Everybody was running helter-skelter. I saw people crying. I saw blood. I saw human body parts."

Despite heavy damage, Myanmar schools reopen

THUWANA, Myanmar (AP) —As students filed into Middle School No. 1 on Monday for the first day of classes since the cyclone hit Myanmar a month ago, all eyes stared skyward - at the gaping hole in the roof.

The school in Thuwana, a southern suburb of Yangon, was one of at least 4,100 that were damaged or destroyed by Cyclone Nargis, according to UNICEF.

The May 2-3 storm struck during the summer break, which runs until the end of May. The government delayed the June 2 start of the new term for a number of schools in the worst-hit areas of the Irrawaddy delta, where entire villages were wiped off the map.

But most schools reopened on schedule Monday in an around Yangon, despite the concerns of some teachers, parents and international aid groups about safety risks to students.

Meanwhile, aid groups continued to complain that a month after the cyclone hit a million survivors are still without basic relief.

The groups say they still faced government delays in sending disaster experts and vital equipment into the country. The hurdles have resulted in only a trickle of the necessary aid reaching the storm's estimated 2.4 million survivors.

"People need basic relief, which is shocking after four weeks," Oxfam regional director Sarah Ireland said Monday.

Schoolchildren leave their school with cyclone damaged roof, windows and walls in the village of Thuwana, 26 kilometers (16 miles) south of Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, June 2, 2008. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea asks US to limit beef imports

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said Tuesday it has asked the U.S. to make a key change to a beef import agreement, following large-scale protests by South Koreans concerned over mad cow disease. Agriculture Minister Chung Woon-chun told a press conference that the government asked the U.S. to refrain from exporting any beef that comes from cattle 30 months of age and older, which are considered to be at greater risk of the illness than younger animals. South Korea agreed in April to reopen its market to U.S. beef after it was blocked for most of the past four and a half years in a ban sparked by the first case of the brain-wasting cattle sickness in the U.S. in late 2003. However, the government said Monday that it was delaying the implementation of the agreement.

UN program cleared of North Korea misdealing

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A panel of auditors said Monday it found no evidence that a U.N. anti-poverty program in North Korea knew of any counterfeiting, money laundering or other improper financial dealings linked to U.N. money. In response to the report, U.N. Development Program Administrator Kemal Dervis told reporters he would consider and possibly recommend to his agency's executive board that it return to working in the communist-led country, from which the agency withdrew its operations in March 2007. The three-member audit panel said it could verify that more than three-quarters of nearly $24 million in agency spending between 1999 and 2007 had been properly spent.

Malaysia stops selling gasoline to Thais

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia began enforcing a ban on gasoline sales to foreign-registered vehicles near the Thai border Monday, causing some stations' business to trickle nearly to a halt. The ban is aimed at curbing the costs of Malaysia's fuel subsidies, which keep retail fuel prices at nearly half those of neighboring Thailand despite soaring global petroleum prices. Thousands of Thais and Singaporeans drive into Malaysia every day to fill their tanks and take advantage of the subsidized prices, which were expected to cost Malaysia's government $14 billion this year. Government authorities say the ban is a temporary measure until they revise the subsidy system so that it more directly helps its intended beneficiaries: low-income Malaysians.

Political tensions hurting Thai economy

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Anti-government street protests and rumors of a military coup are hurting Thailand's economy and investors' confidence, the finance minister said Monday as the stock market dropped 2.8 percent. Protesters were back on the streets for an eighth day of demonstrations to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and his coalition government. On Saturday, Samak threatened to send in the police and military to clear them away, but he backed down Sunday. The demonstrators, led by a group called the People's Alliance for Democracy movement, charge Samak with being a puppet of toppled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and with trying to change the constitution for political gain.

World

Navy sees future with drones for spying

By SEBASTIAN ABBOT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S TRUMAN (AP)—The Navy lags well behind the Air Force in the development of armed drones —the unmanned aircraft now used increasingly in Iraq and Afghanistan—insisting that its "Top Gun" fighter pilots are still smarter, better and more flexible in combat.

But the contrasting visions for the next generation of America's air arsenal point to wider debates within the military about the pace of incorporating remote-control technology into future battle strategies.

It also touches on differences in military cultures—with the Navy coming under criticism for its apparent resistance to substitute fighter pilot training and instincts with aircraft guided by operators who can be thousands of miles away.

For the moment, the Navy is deeply committed to plans for the F-35 fighter jet and developing a drone fleet strictly for surveillance and other non-weapon tasks. The Air Force, meanwhile, has used armed drones for years and appears to embody Pentagon trends to encourage drones as a way to reduce costs and consolidate personnel.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, in a speech in April, called on the Air Force and other military officials to rethink "long-standing service assumptions and priorities about which missions require certified pilots, and which do not."

Gates added that "unmanned systems cost much less and offer greater loiter times than their manned counterparts—making them ideal for many of today's tasks."

But many Navy pilots believe the drone technology has its limits when called on to strike targets, saying that pilots cannot be fully replaced.

AP

In this Thursday, June 21, 2007 file photo, an MQ-4 Predator controlled by the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron stands on the tarmac at Balad Air Base, 50 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq.

Macedonia election marred by violence

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)—International monitors said Monday that serious violations marred a national election that gave the center-right government a landslide victory.

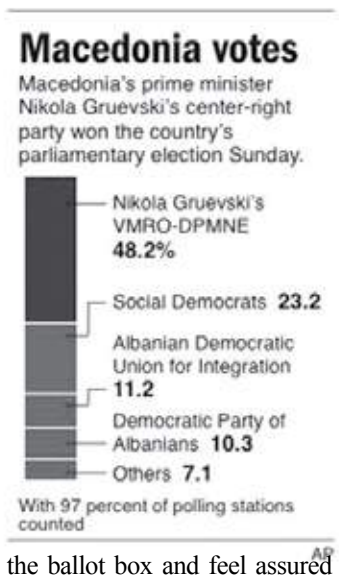
The monitoring mission of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe said Sunday's vote failed to meet international standards and was marked by violence, intimidation and ballot box stuffing in predominantly ethnic Albanian areas.

"Organized efforts to violently disrupt the process early on Election Day made it impossible for voters in many places to freely express their will," it said.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the U.S. expects Macedonia to prosecute people involved in hindering voting.

"It's the responsibility (of) a government to provide an atmosphere where people are able to freely express themselves via the ballot box and feel assured that they wouldn't be subject to threat or intimidation," he said.

Nikola Gruevski's center-right conservatives won 48.3 percent of the vote, far ahead of the Social Democrats' 23.4 and enough to give him a majority in the 120-seat parliament.


Macedonia votes
Macedonia's prime minister Nikola Gruevski's center-right party won the country's parliamentary election Sunday.
Nikola Gruevski's VMRO-DPMNE 48.2%
Social Democrats 23.2
Albanian Democratic Union for Integration 11.2
Democratic Party of Albanians 10.3
Others 7.1
With 97 percent of polling stations counted
AP

Baby born aboard airplane over Canada

CAMDEN, New Jersey (AP)—A premature baby is expected to stay at Lourdes Medical Center for several weeks after being born on a Korean Air Lines flight.

Jadan Brown was delivered last Wednesday by his father Larry, a trained emergency medical worker, and a Korean surgeon who happened to be onboard the flight from the Philippines to New York City, the hospital said Monday.

"I really didn't have time to think about what was happening," Larry Brown, of Sicklerville, New Jersey, told the hospital.

Brown's wife Jacel was about seven months into her pregnancy when she started to go into labor in the middle of the 14-hour flight.

The baby was born on the floor of the plane's galley at about 37,000 feet (11,300 meters) above northern Canada, the hospital said.

Jadan Brown weighed less than 3 pounds (1.36 kilograms). He was stabilized at a New York hospital after the plane landed, and was transported to Lourdes late Thursday.

Syria to allow UN probe of alleged nuclear site

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Syria will allow in U.N. inspectors to probe allegations that a remote building destroyed in an Israeli airstrike was a nuclear reactor built secretly with North Korean help, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Monday.

The invitation signaled the start of an international fact check of U.S. and Israeli assertions that Damascus had tried to build a plutonium-producing facility under the radar of the international community. It could turn into a wider probe of possible secret Syrian nuclear sites.

Syria has denied wrongdoing, asserting the attack destroyed a non-nuclear military building. Syrian officials in Damascus did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment on Monday.

IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei did not say whether inspectors would be granted access to the site during the planned June 22-24 visit, but a senior diplomat with knowledge of the planned inquiry said they would be able to visit the facility.

While steering clear of a judgment of what was hit in remarks to the agency's 35-nation board of governors, ElBaradei noted Damascus "has an obligation to report the planning and construction of any nuclear facility to the agency."

Diplomats told The Associated Press that during the visit, agency officials will also ask for information on the alleged existence of at least two and possible three undeclared such facilities. The diplomats, who demanded anonymity because of the sensitivity of their information, indicated they had their knowledge either from the U.S. or from IAEA officials.

WORLD BRIEFS

UK terror suspect says bombs were stunt

LONDON (AP)—A man accused of planning to bomb North America-bound airliners said Monday that he was planning a publicity stunt, not mass murder. Abdulla Ahmed Ali, one of eight British Muslims charged with plotting to detonate liquid explosives aboard passenger jets, denied ever thinking about blowing up an airplane. He told Woolwich Crown Court he wanted to give Londoners a jolt—and attract attention for a movie he was making—by placing a small bomb at London's Houses of Parliament. "We did not want to kill or injure anyone," Ali, 27, told the southeast London court. Ali said he wanted "something small enough to cause a large bang, maybe some smoke. Something that would be considered serious and credible, something to generate that mass media attention."

Iraq's oil exports rise

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's oil production and exports have risen to their highest levels since the March 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the Oil Ministry said Monday. The country's exports reached 2.11 million barrels a day in March while the total output stood at about 2.5 million barrels a day, spokesman Assem Jihad told The Associated Press. The Energy Information Administration, part of the U.S. Energy Department, estimated Iraqi production at about 2.6 million barrels a day in early 2003. Production tapered off just before the U.S.-led invasion, then dropped to below 1.5 million barrels a day, according to the group. Oil exports were down last month because of the fighting between government forces and militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Basra province, the center of the southern oil industry.

Venezuelan intelligence law draws protests

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A new intelligence law that President Hugo Chavez enacted by decree is drawing protests from human rights activists who say it could lead to serious violations of civil liberties and become a tool for cracking down on dissent. Chavez argues the Intelligence and Counterintelligence Law will help Venezuela detect and neutralize national security threats, including any assassination attempts or plots aimed at spurring military rebellions. But human rights activists warned on Monday that the law infringes on suspects' rights to due process and defense. Under the law, which Chavez enacted by decree last week, Venezuelans who refuse to cooperate with intelligence agencies by acting as informants face up to four years in prison.

UN summit tackles food prices

ROME (AP)—World leaders at a U.N. summit starting Tuesday have the opportunity to devise a strategy to stop skyrocketing food prices from adding millions more to the multitudes of those across the globe who already lack enough to eat. The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization is hosting the three-day summit with the goal of averting a looming catastrophe of widening malnutrition and civil unrest among poor people unable to afford basic foodstuffs because of what the World Bank calculates has been an 83 percent increase in prices in the last three years. Some 40 heads of state or government are expected at the summit, including French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Campus Life

Students skip slime, stink with virtual dissection

By P.J. DICKERSCHEID
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—It's not just concern for the squeamish biology students who wince at the feel and smell of cutting into a formaldehyde-soaked animal.

Think about the frog. The pig. Or even the rat.

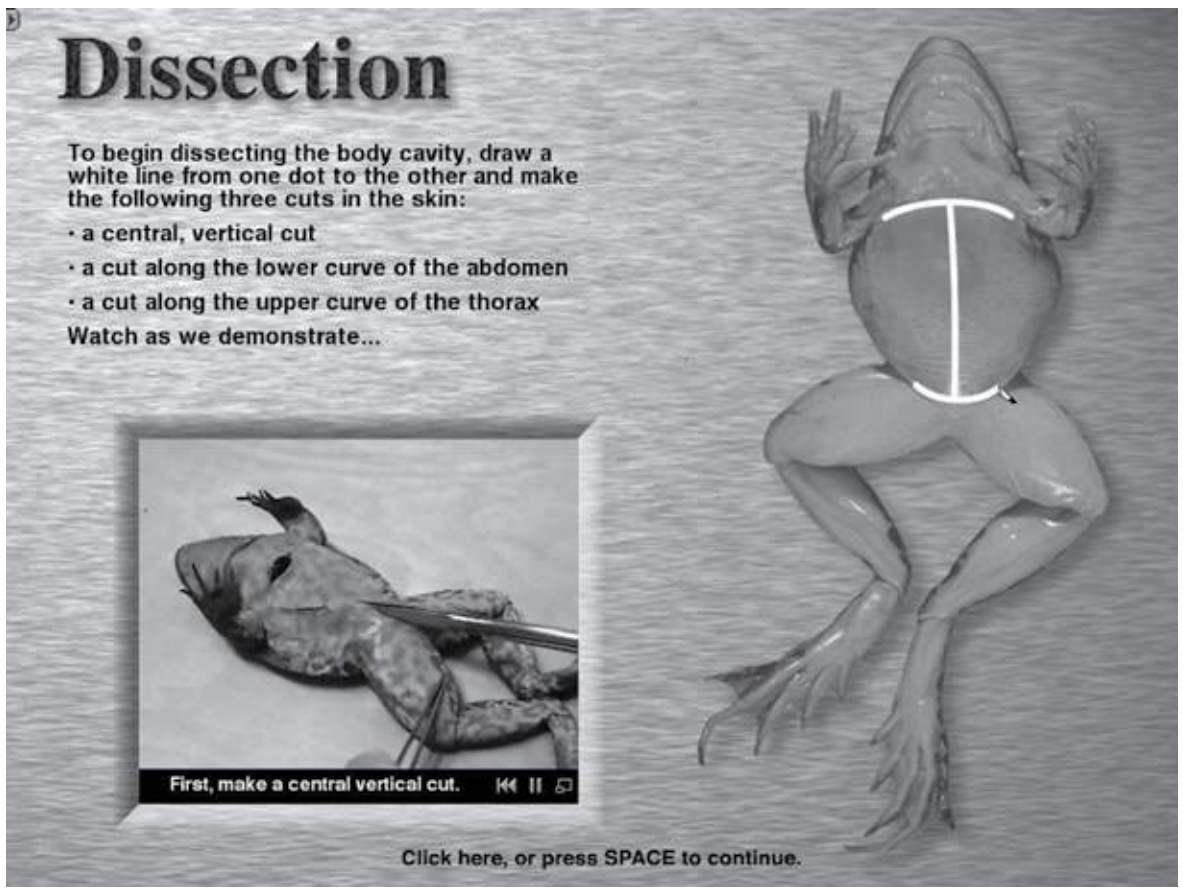
That's what animal rights activists in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle had in mind when they donated interactive software that replicates a frog dissection to Wheeling Park High School.

Marilyn Grindley, a member of the Ohio County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said dissecting animals "desensitizes kids. It tells them that we do not have any respect for any animal." She wants to end the practice.

Mandates in 14 states, including Virginia and Maryland, that allow biology students to opt out of dissection without jeopardizing their grades are fueling interest in virtual dissection as an alternative tool for teaching anatomy.

Grindley and fellow SPCA member Rebecca Goth say virtual dissection software such as the The Digital Frog, the version they donated, offers an alternative to students who find dissection repulsive, and can even save schools money.

But some educators, like Christopher Perillo, a science teacher in Kenosha, Wis., don't buy it. He says nothing can duplicate the smell, feel and texture of cutting into a real frog.


Dissection
To begin dissecting the body cavity, draw a white line from one dot to the other and make the following three cuts in the skin:
· a central, vertical cut
· a cut along the lower curve of the abdomen
· a cut along the upper curve of the thorax
Watch as we demonstrate...
First, make a central vertical cut.
Click here, or press SPACE to continue.

AP
In this handout photo provided by Digital Frog International, a screen shot is shown of a frog dissection image from a virtual dissection program that includes the frog and instructions to the student. This is part of a virtual dissection program, which could save schools money. It's also an alternative to students who find live dissection repulsive.

"It's not the same as the real thing," Perillo said. "To actually cut through the tissue, see how the skin layers feel, the textures, the way the organs look inside the body, I think that can't be duplicated.

"It's like trying to become a gardener without touching the dirt."

West Virginia is not one of opt-out states for dissections. But now that biology is a required class in West Virginia, virtual dissection is becoming an attractive option to some educators there.

Patrick Durkin, science department chair at Wheeling Park High School, said the number of students enrolled in biology will increase to about 400 this fall. Before, about 150 students studied biology each year.

With a single pig costing upward of $25 and a frog around $6, the program has the potential to save the school some money, though not a lot. Wheeling Park spends about $1,000 a year on frogs alone, he said.

By comparison, digital dissection software can be purchased for less than $1,500 from numerous companies.

In addition to The Digital Frog, schools have plenty of software to choose from, including Froguts, developed by Froguts Inc. founders Richard Hill and David Hughes, and V-Frog, developed by Tactus Technologies.

Goth and Grindley worked through the Physicians Committee For Responsible Medicine, which negotiated with Digital Frog International in Ontario, Canada, for the SPCA to buy the software at a reduced price of about $500.

The committee has brokered similar deals for school systems in New York and California, said Dr. John Pippin, senior medical and research adviser for the nonprofit group that promotes alternatives to animal research.

Pippin said the move away from dissecting real animals mirrors what's been happening on college campuses over the past 25 years. In 1982, 107 of 124 medical schools across the country used real animals to teach anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and surgery. Today, eight of 154 accredited medical schools still do.

Wheeling Park's Durkin said it wasn't saving cash or sparing the lives of animals that appealed to him. With plans to phase out the use of real frogs over the next couple of years, Durkin said the program will enable students to spend more time on dissection outside of class.

Using a digital scalpel, students make cuts on an image on a full-screen video. Animations and interactions also allow students to see how the body works - from blood pumping through the heart to building joints that move.

And unlike a real dissection, mistakes can be easily corrected and steps repeated to reinforce lessons.

While only those students who go on to medical school will likely ever work with human cadavers, Pippin said he doesn't expect virtual software to ever replace medical schools' use of human cadavers "unless we get to the point where cadavers are not available."

"Hands-on experience with a human being burns in your brain all the things you need to learn ... but it gives you a profound respect for human life," he said. "When you kill an animal for a lab, you're wasting a life, and that's not a message you want students to learn."

Elementary school nails test-score target for NCLB

By DANIEL DE VISE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

OCEAN CITY, Md.—The goal of the No Child Left Behind Act is that every child attain proficiency in reading and math by 2014. At most of the 1,455 public schools in Maryland, teachers and principals regard that scenario as improbable, even laughable.

At one school, the target has been met.

Last spring, all 184 students in the third and fourth grades at Ocean City Elementary School passed the Maryland School Assessment, or MSA, a battery of tests given by the state every year since 2003 to satisfy the law.

The school was the first in the state, apart from a few tiny special-education centers, to meet the goal that has defined public education this decade.

"We think of MSA as the floor, as sort of the basics of what all students should be doing," Principal Irene Kordick said. "We shoot for the ceiling."

The notion that every child should be able to pass a test of grade-level work has challenged, divided and confounded the education community. The law, signed by President Bush in 2002, holds schools accountable for the progress of all children, in the belief that each of them can learn. It's a popular notion that few educators would publicly dispute, but it is a goal few schools in the region have been able to meet.

Some education leaders have said the No Child Left Behind law's mandate is inflexible and unrealistic, particularly with regard to disadvantaged students. Much of the education community assumes the goal of 100 percent proficiency will be relaxed or abandoned well before the 2014 deadline.

But between now and then, the law requires that schools show progress toward the goal of 100 percent proficiency. This year, Maryland schools must show that at least 61 percent of students are proficient in math and 70 percent in reading, an increase of seven and five points, respectively, over last year's targets. Many schools will not manage even that.

So how did Ocean City Elementary achieve perfection?

The school serves 568 students in a coastal resort town with an odd mix of families—in oceanfront condominiums, middle-class colonials and Coastal Highway trailers. The student population is 89 percent white, 5 percent Hispanic, 3 percent black, 2 percent Asian and 1 percent American Indian. Twenty-nine students have limited English proficiency, and 134 qualify for subsidized meals because of low family income.

The school's administration, faculty and parents attributed the success to a campuswide approach that is unusually structured, relentless and consistent. Here, more than at most schools, classrooms look and sound very alive, and very alike.

Kordick, the principal, emigrated from Munich with her grandmother, mother and sister at age 6 and was raised in the slums of Cleveland.

She was seldom called on in class and almost never spoke, yet she managed to reach the fifth grade as an A student without having learned to read or write English.

"I never wanted what happened to me to happen to anyone," Kordick said. "I think kids don't talk enough in school. In fact, I think they're told not to talk."

When she became principal of Ocean City Elementary 11 years ago, Kordick initiated a policy called Ask and Answer. The school abolished the practice of teachers asking questions, students raising hands and the teacher picking one to provide the answer. Instead, students pair off and answer the question between themselves.

In a kindergarten class on a recent morning, students recited the plan for a morning activity: "We will construct caterpillars and butterflies." Teacher Chris Lieb then said: "Think about what 'construct' might mean. Pair with your partner and tell your partner." Chatter filled the classroom.

In an adjoining class, kindergarten student Hunter Wolf peered through a framed sheet of transparent plastic held against a window, the better to gauge the day's weather with. He turned to the class: "According to my picture, it is cloudy and rainy today." Another schoolwide rule dictates that students speak in full sentences.

Teachers and students at Ocean City work according to an ever-expanding list of norms, a document that now runs to five pages. Conceived by Kordick and padded with contributions from staff members, the norms include broad directives about perseverance and choice as well as specific rules: Never stop working until the time is up. Greet others with "Good Morning" or "Good Afternoon."

It is an approach so distinctive, said parent Kim Holloway, that when students from Ocean City go on to other schools in the Worcester County, Md., system, "you can pick them out, one by one. They're attentive, they're respectful."

The school boasts unusually small classes, most with fewer than 20 students, and a county-funded pre-kindergarten program. Assignments often mirror the structure of the statewide test, and students are assessed regularly on different areas of the statewide curriculum.

But Kordick and her instructional leaders said the focus on getting children to speak is key to Ocean City's singular success on the MSA. In addition to attaining 100 percent proficiency last year, the school ranked first in Maryland for the percentage of students rated "advanced"—the highest of three performance levels, a step above proficient. Seventy-two percent of Ocean City students rated "advanced."

"There isn't anything magical about the things that we do," said Karen Spangler, a resource teacher who has worked at the school for 37 years. "Over the years, they've been honed, they've been made better, and then they've been shared across the grades."

Having attained 100 percent proficiency, the school will face inevitable pressure to repeat the feat every year till 2014. The results of this year's test, taken last month, are due in the summer.

"And yes, of course," Kordick wrote in an e-mail, "we are anxiously awaiting our scores."

Life & Style

Acclaimed wine-maker visits Saipan

Renowned Italian vintner Ernesto Casetta enjoys the night inside the Giovannis restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Garapan.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Renowned Italian vintner Ernesto Casetta treated visitors at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Monday night to a tasting of the Casetta family's wines.

The Casetta family has won a host of awards for the wines produced on its Vezza D'Alba vineyard in Italy's Roero region and tasters at the event had a chance to sample one of the company's unique creations, the Moscato D'Asti blend.

A white, sweet wine with a light body and taste, the Moscato D'Asti is fit to accompany a variety of meals, according to its creator, including fish, meat and even deserts.

Moscato D'Asti is the product of vines grown in the Piedmontse region on Italy and unlike other wines it must, the Casetta's say, be consumed within one year of its production.

Wine-making is an old tradition for the Casetta family, who have lived in the Roero region since 1725.

Local company Pacific Wines and Spirits organized the event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabrielle Colombo, Ernesto Casetta with his wife, and Pacific Wine & Spirits general manager Dan Matsuno.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Casetta with Aqua Resort Club acting F&B director Piding C. Sablan, assistant food and beverage director Mayeth D. De Guzman, and restaurant manager Rom E. Manzon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

360 Associate Restaurant Manager Rick Jones and Tori Hide's Emmy Poblete pose for a photo with the visiting couple.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Casetta with Marianas Resort and Spa executive chef William Retardo.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Palms Resort Saipan's Christina Lustre and executive chef Satoshi Akimoto with Italian vintner Ernesto Casetta and wife.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Casetta with the event organizer Pacific Wine and Spirits, headed by its general manager Dan Matsuno with PWS hardworking staff and Ken Stewart Guam's Food Guy.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan F&B director Ranjeet Rajebhosale receives a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation from winemaker Ernesto Casetta.

Casetta's signature wines are on display during the wine tasting event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Succulent deserts were served for the gathering.

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabrielle Colombo receives a book from the prominent winemaker Casetta.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hafadai Beach Hotel's executive chef Toshio Obata and other executives welcome the acclaimed winemaker Ernesto Casetta and his wife.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Wine lovers toast to the occasion.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A collection of Casetta wines are presented during the event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Sweet courses were perfectly arrayed for the guests.

Spiralfrog.com to offer new downloads from EMI artists

By ALEX VEIGA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—SpiralFrog Inc., which operates an ad-supported, free music and video download Web site, said Monday it will soon begin offering content from Coldplay, Keith Urban and other recording artists as part of a new licensing deal with EMI Music.

Terms of the deal between the New York-based company and Britain-based EMI Music, a unit of EMI Group PLC, were not disclosed.

The EMI deal gives SpiralFrog users access to content from two of the four major recording companies. SpiralFrog inked a licensing deal with Universal Music Group prior to launching last September.

ON THE NET
SpiralFrog: http://www.spiralfrog.com

"You're going to see that users on our site are going to see a lot more content, so there's going to be far fewer searches where they won't find music they're looking for," said Joe Mohen, SpiralFrog's chairman and founder.

The ad-supported service lets users in the U.S. and Canada download audio tracks and music videos for free. It pays labels and other rights holders with ad revenue.

Visitors must register and log on to the site at least once every couple of months. Otherwise, the content locks up and can't be played.

SpiralFrog downloads also are not compatible with Apple Inc.'s line of iPods. Tracks can be downloaded onto certain devices running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows software.

Mohen said the company is pursuing content licensing deals with other labels but declined to say whether talks are being held with the two remaining major recording companies - Warner Music Group Corp. and Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

SpiralFrog is seeking to grow its audience so it can lure more advertisers and revenue. Growing its catalog of music is key.

Universal Music accounted for about 31.2 percent of all U.S. album sales this year through May 25, according to Nielsen SoundScan. EMI accounted for about 8.7 percent.

Sony BMG and Warner Music together accounted for nearly 46 percent.

Independent labels, some of which already license content to SpiralFrog, accounted for about 14.1 percent of U.S. album sales, the firm said.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Philadelphia singers win national contest

LOS ANGELES—Tenor Bryan Hymel, 28, from Philadelphia, won the $12,000 first prize at the 36th annual Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition finals Sunday.

Soprano Angela Meade, 30, from Philadelphia took the $10,000 second prize. New York soprano Julianna Di Giacomo, 33, won the $8,000 third prize.

Ten finalists, drawn from 235 applicants, participated in the finals with the Los Angeles Performing Arts Orchestra, conducted by Frank Fetta.

Past Zachary winners have included Thomas Hampson, Aprile Millo, Ruth Ann Swenson and Deborah Voigt. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Stern wedding set for fall, actress says

MELVILLE, N.Y.—Beth Ostrosky says she and her fiance, shock jock Howard Stern, are planning an October wedding. "We're just getting our best friends together and having a reception in the city," Ostrosky says.

In the meantime, the actress says, she plans to spend the summer in their new Hamptons home, "barbecuing and being with my fiance and my bulldog on the beach." ***(Newsday)***

McCartney celebrates 'Sgt. Pepper' anniversary in concert

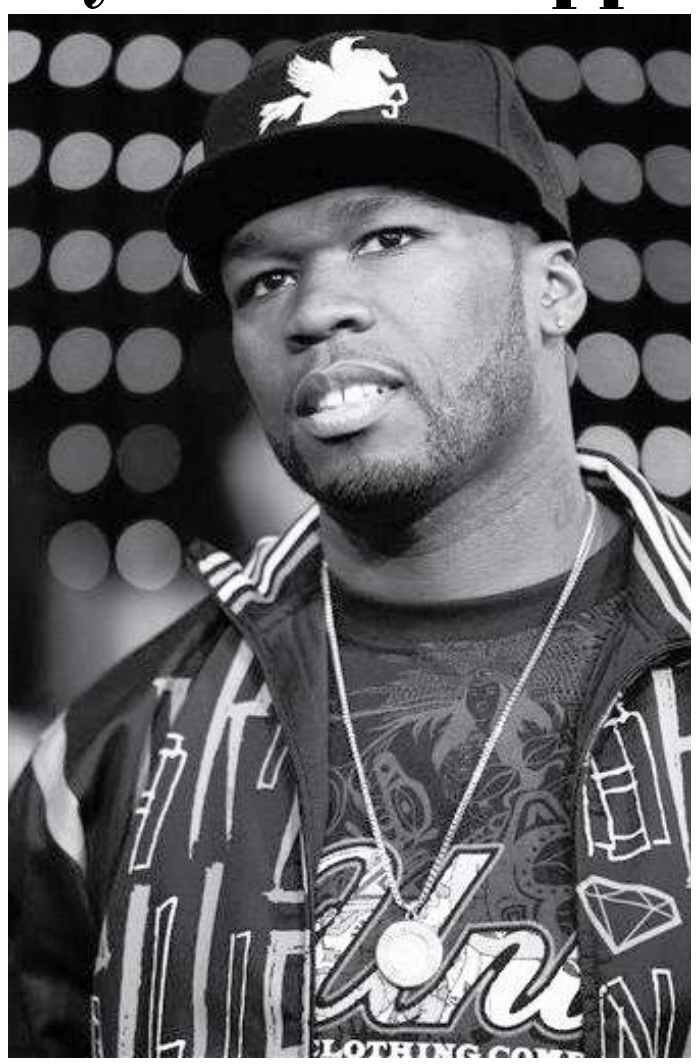
Paul McCartney returned to Liverpool, England, on the 41st anniversary of the release of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album for a concert in which he saluted former songwriting partner John Lennon by singing "A Day in the Life" while Lennon's widow Yoko Ono watched from the audience.

It was, according to McCartney's spokesman, the first time he publicly has sung the album-closing song that was written primarily by Lennon. McCartney muffed one line midway through —during the brief section of the composition that he wrote. In a clip of Sunday's performance posted on YouTube, McCartney chuckles, moves on and then segues into Lennon's antiwar anthem "Give Peace a Chance."

McCartney also gave a nod to George Harrison by including "Something," played on ukulele, Harrison's instrument of choice for living-room jam sessions. His widow, Olivia Harrison, also attended the concert, which drew an estimated 36,000 people to Anfield Stadium. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Controversy follows rapper 50 Cent

By GLENN GAMBOA
© 2008, NEWSDAY


50 Cent

DIX HILLS, N.Y.—Curtis Jackson, better known as the rapper 50 Cent, is no stranger to controversy.

His list of high-profile feuds is lengthy, surpassed perhaps only by the number of outrageous things he says. He has carefully cultivated the persona of a bully, an anti-hero, a hip-hop gangsta of the highest order.

However, though the rapper-turned-actor-turned-business-mogul has built a considerable empire on generating that controversy and trading on his violent past, Jackson has stayed on the right side of the law since busting into the hip-hop mainstream in 2002.

The only thing sure at this point about the Friday morning fire that destroyed Jackson's 5,200-square-foot Dix Hills home, where his son, Marquise, 11, and his former girlfriend Shaniqua Tompkins lived, is that it will restart debate over how much of Jackson's 50 Cent gangsta persona is real and how much is strictly for show.

The house has been at the center of a legal battle between the rapper and Tompkins.

An investigation into the fire, which Dix Hills Fire Chief Larry Feld said was possibly "suspicious," has been launched.

A representative for Jackson, who was in Shreveport, La., filming the movie "Streets of Blood" at the time of the fire, said, Jackson "is confident that authorities will be conducting a thorough investigation of the incident and is eager to review their findings."

His work on "Streets of Blood," a cop drama set in post-Katrina New Orleans that also stars Val Kilmer and Sharon Stone, actually is part of Jackson's plan to move beyond his career as 50 Cent. (Like many rapper-actors, he uses his real name in the movie credits.)

It's not clear how much more recording as 50 Cent he plans to do. Last year, he boasted that if he didn't sell more copies of his album "Curtis" than Kanye West sold of his album "Graduation" in the first week they were released, he would retire from recording solo albums. West outsold him, but Jackson is expected to fulfill his contract with Interscope.

While happy to talk about the struggles of being a CEO, Jackson remains more than willing to recount how he was shot nine times in a drive-by shooting outside his grandmother's home in New York, or how he was a teenage drug dealer, or how he first gained national attention with his underground single "How to Rob," where he went on about robbing everyone from Jay-Z to Bobby Brown. He's also a master at starting beefs with all sorts of rappers, from Ja Rule and The Game to last year's bout with West.

But Jackson told Newsday last fall that these days, he is definitely moving beyond his gangsta persona. He's more interested in maintaining all his business holdings. When asked about finishing No. 2 last year on the Forbes list of top hip-hop moguls, he said, "That won't happen again," pointing out that he expected to soon surpass Jay-Z for the top spot because the $32-million tally didn't include his estimated $100-million stake in Vitamin Water or the growth in his G-Unit companies.

He said then that his recent beefs didn't begin with him. "A lot of the reason that people feel like I'm in constant friction, in constant competition, is artists, given the competitive nature of hip-hop, won't allow you to just be in that top position," he said.

Even outside of the Dix Hills fire, Jackson's past week offered examples of how trouble has surrounded him, even as he tries to move beyond it. Police went to his Farmington, Conn., mansion Tuesday to arrest his employee, Dwayne McKenzie, 27, on charges of assault and strangulation, after a 22-year-old woman claimed McKenzie choked her and struck her with a belt during an argument at the mansion, The Associated Press reported.

On Thursday, MTV announced that it had picked up a still-untitled reality show starring Jackson that is a kind of hip-hop version of "The Apprentice," where 16 men and women compete for a full college scholarship by completing in a series of street-wise business challenges. The show, set to air in the fall, ties in with Jackson's upcoming book "The 50th Law," with author Robert Greene, where he outlines the business practices he has used to become a success.

And Jackson has said part of his gauge of success will be that his son will not have to follow in his footsteps. He has Marquise's name, inside an ax, tattooed on his right biceps. "The ax is 'cause I'm a warrior," he told Blender magazine in 2005. "I don't want him to be one, though."

WWE chair promotes 'Raw' with $1M giveaway

In this June 28, 2007 file photo, World Wrestling Entertainment owner Vince McMahon waits to be interviewed on the NBC "Today" television program in New York. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Wrestling fans eager to get their hands on Vince McMahon's money will have to jump through a few hoops first.

The World Wrestling Entertainment chairman announced during last week's "Monday Night Raw" that he would give away $1 million of his own wealth to viewers, but he didn't specify when or how it would be distributed.

The cash will be given away as part of a lengthy promotional sweepstakes, McMahon and the WWE told The Associated Press.

For a chance to win $1 million each week for the foreseeable future, viewers must preregister on WWE.com and then watch the beginning of "Raw" each week to receive a special code, which viewers must tell McMahon if he calls them during the live broadcast.

The code will change each week of the promotion and will not be revealed until the beginning of each episode.

"People can view this as my own version of an economic stimulus plan to benefit our viewers," McMahon told the AP.

While the USA Network series continues to be one of the most watched shows on cable TV, its ratings have recently declined. Last Monday's episode received the lowest ratings for a Memorial Day broadcast in five years, according to Nielsen Media Research.

McMahon said his goal with the giveaway, which begins June 9, is to reward loyal "Raw" fans and draw new and former viewers back to the show.

Prosecution rests in R. Kelly child-porn trial

CHICAGO (AP)—A star prosecution witness cried Monday as she alleged at R. Kelly's child pornography trial several three-way sexual encounters with the R&B superstar and the alleged victim, some of which she said Kelly videotaped.

Lisa Van Allen, 27, the last witness before prosecutors rested their case, also told jurors in more than three hours of graphic and dramatic testimony that Kelly last year offered her $250,000 to recover a tape of one of the trysts.

During cross-examination, a defense attorney accused Van Allen of plotting to extort money from the singer, a claim she denied. Under further questioning she admitted she once stole Kelly's $20,000 diamond-studded watch from a hotel.

"Van Allen is an admitted thief and liar who wouldn't know the truth if she tripped over it," Kelly's business manager, Derrel McDavid, said in a statement.

Kelly, 41, faces as many as 15 years in prison if convicted of child pornography on suspicion of videotaping himself having sex with a female prosecutors say was as young as 13. He has pleaded not guilty and both he and the alleged victim, now 23, deny being on the video—which is separate from those Van Allen testified to being on.

The state, which called more than a dozen witnesses over two weeks, rested its case after Van Allen's testimony. Jurors will get Tuesday off before the defense begins its presentation on Wednesday.

Van Allen told jurors Monday she first had sex with Kelly and the alleged victim in 1998. Kelly would have been around 30 years old at the time, Van Allen about 18 and the alleged victim would have been 14, according to prosecutors' estimates.

Van Allen said Kelly told her at the time that the alleged victim was 16. The age of legal consent in Illinois is 17.

The three-way sex took place in the same home on Chicago's North Side where prosecutors say the sex tape at the center of the case was made, Van Allen told jurors.

She said she began crying during a second sexual encounter in 1999 with Kelly and the alleged victim, causing an upset Kelly to pick up the video camera and leave the room. She said that encounter took place at the house's basketball court.

"I started crying ... because I didn't want to do it," Van Allen testified. She said Kelly complained that her crying ruined the footage and that he never kept tapes during which she cried.

A final three-way encounter took place in a trailer during a video shoot in Chicago in 2000, Van Allen said. When someone came to the trailer door, the alleged victim "had to run into the bathroom naked" because Kelly did not want others to see her there, she told jurors.

Several months pregnant, Van Allen, from Georgia, initially appeared relaxed on the witness stand and smiled frequently. But she wept when she discussed the second alleged encounter. Prosecutors paused for two minutes as she dabbed tears from her face and regained her composure.

Kelly looked on from across the room as Van Allen testified, at least once appearing to shake his head and other times leaning into the defense table, staring at his folded hands.

AP

Singer R. Kelly returns to the Cook County Criminal Court Building after a break as his child pornography trial continues in Chicago on Monday, June 2, 2008.

'Entertainment Tonight' backs Jolie twins story

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The birth of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's twins is turning into the type of mystery that might make a good movie one day.

The executive producer for "Entertainment Tonight" said Monday that she wanted to "see how this story plays out" before retracting a report that the twins had been born, despite a denial from Pitt's manager and a claim that someone might be posing as Jolie's personal assistant to fool reporters.

The TV show reported Friday that twin girls had been born, identifying its source as a person in the delivery room, and quoted another Web site giving the babies' alleged names.

Rival news organizations quickly shot the story down. The Associated Press, which had picked up the "Entertainment Tonight" report after talking to executives at the show about their source, later quoted Pitt's manager saying the "ET" story was not true.

In the world of celebrity journalism, it may be the biggest story of the year.

"This is an absolutely huge, huge story for us," said Sarah Ivens, editor in chief of OK! magazine. "Essentially you have two of the most beautiful, famous people in the world. We've all seen they've had one baby, Shiloh, and it is the coolest, most adorable baby on the planet. And this time they're having two? It can't get any better."

It was "pandemonium" at the offices of Us Weekly when the "Entertainment Tonight" report was posted, said Dina Sansing, the magazine's entertainment director.

AP

In this May 15, 2008 file photo, U.S. actors Brad Pitt, left, and Angelina Jolie arrive for the premiere of the film "Kung Fu Panda," during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, France.

People magazine was first to report that the story was not true. Us Weekly checked its own sources and concluded the same, Sansing said.

On Monday, Jolie's attorneys advised news organizations that someone was posing as Holly Goline, Jolie's personal assistant, and had sent out false information about the movie star. The source for the "Entertainment Tonight" report was an e-mail supposedly from Goline, said an executive at the show who did not want to be identified for competitive reasons.

Was "Entertainment Tonight" punk'd? Perhaps not, the executive said.

The show initiated its own contact with Goline after hearing rumors the babies had been born in France, said the executive. The person who made the contact was an "ET" producer who had worked with Goline while at CNN and kept Goline's e-mail address, the executive said. The executive forwarded an e-mail exchange that appeared to support this version of events.

In the e-mails, Goline - or the impostor - said she was there for the deliveries and everyone was doing well. Pressed by "ET" for more information, the person said she could say no more.

"Entertainment Tonight" had removed its story from its Web site after the questions were raised. No mention was made of the story on Monday's show.

"Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are friends of `Entertainment Tonight.' We have spent years cultivating that friendship, working with them side by side on many of their projects," Linda Bell Blue, executive producer for "Entertainment Tonight" and its sister broadcast, "The Insider," said in a statement Monday. "We wish them and their children well. We are waiting to see how this story plays out."

Millions of dollars could be at stake. After Shiloh was born, Pitt and Jolie were at the forefront of a growing movement by celebrities to auction off exclusive rights to first public pictures of their babies (Pitt and Jolie donated the money to charity). Sometimes exclusive details on the birth come with these rights.

Ivens said OK! would be interested in exclusive pictures of the babies, but would not discuss whether there were any negotiations to obtain them.

Jolie has said the babies are due in August. Ivens said OK! grew more comfortable over the weekend that the "Entertainment Tonight" story was wrong because of other clues. There were no reports of flowers being delivered to hospitals, or grandparents flying in, she said, and Pitt was seen attending a sporting event over the weekend—an unlikely spot for a new father of premature twins.

Drug arrest revives old troubles for Tatum O'Neal

NEW YORK (AP)—Tatum O'Neal swore she was done with drugs. The Oscar-winning former child actress proclaimed she was sober as she promoted her 2004 tell-all memoir, cobbled her acting career back together and even offered advice to misbehaving pop star Britney Spears.

O'Neal's arrest Sunday on charges of buying cocaine in her gritty-chic downtown Manhattan neighborhood suggests her struggle with addiction may not be over.

O'Neal, 44, looked tired and said nothing as she was arraigned Monday in Manhattan Criminal Court on a misdemeanor charge of possession of a controlled substance. The daughter of screen star Ryan O'Neal entered no plea and was released without bail until a July 28 court date.

Prosecutors are recommending drug treatment for the actress, who detailed her dependency on heroin and cocaine in her best-selling memoir, "A Paper Life."

Her lawyer, Robert Marinelli, declined to comment Monday. Her manager and publicist did not immediately return telephone calls after her court appearance, while her agent's office referred calls to her publicist.

O'Neal

The arrest was another low point in a life that has included many. Her childhood, she has said, was a Hollywood horror show. Then came years of drug abuse, public feuding with her father and a searing child custody fight with her ex-husband, tennis star John McEnroe. Her acting career vaporized.

But a determined O'Neal rebuilt it in recent years, telling The New York Times last year that she called and e-mailed her agent daily and accepted every role offered. She appeared in independent films, played guest roles on such shows as "Law and Order: Criminal Intent" and "8 Simple Rules ... for Dating My Teenage Daughter" and took a spin on "Dancing with the Stars."

Her efforts solidified into a recurring role as hard-drinking Maggie Gavin in the FX cable channel's television drama "Rescue Me." The show is now in production for its fifth and sixth seasons.

Show producer Sony Pictures Television said the actress has shot one episode for the upcoming season and is scheduled to appear in several more, but Sony Pictures declined to comment further.

Police found two bags of cocaine in O'Neal's right front pants pocket when she was arrested about 7:30 p.m. Sunday on the rundown-turned-trendy Lower East Side, according to a court complaint. Officers saw O'Neal accept the drug from a man during a routine drug sweep, police said. Initial reports suggested she had bought crack, but police later said it was powder cocaine.

At age 10, O'Neal won an Academy Award for best supporting actress for 1973's "Paper Moon," becoming the youngest person ever to win an Oscar. Three years later, her $350,000 paycheck for "The Bad News Bears" made her Hollywood's highest-paid child star.

But behind the scenes, O'Neal's life was a drama of neglect, dysfunction and debauchery, according to her memoir.

Winehouse supports jailed husband

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse gave her jailed husband loving glances when he appeared in an east London court on charges of assault and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Winehouse sat in the front row during Blake Fielder-Civil's appearance on Monday.

The 24-year-old singer smiled at him repeatedly and patted the empty seat next to her. At one point, she mouthed the words, "Come and sit here next to me."

She gave a handwritten note to a court official and asked him to deliver it to Fielder-Civil. No one could see what she had written.

Winehouse told spectators outside the court that her husband looked gorgeous.

AP

Jack Jordan exits Manhattan criminal court following his sentencing, Monday, June 2, 2008, in New York.

Uma Thurman stalker gets probation

NEW YORK (AP)—A Manhattan judge has sentenced a former mental patient to three years of probation for stalking and harassing actress Uma Thurman.

Jack Jordan of Gaithersburg, Md., will serve the probation in his home state, with the condition that he receive outpatient psychiatric treatment. The prosecutor had sought a year in jail.

State Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro also imposed a five-year order of protection. If Jordan violates any of the court's terms, the judge says he'll be jailed.

An out-of-work lifeguard and pool cleaner, Jordan was convicted on May 6. Testimony showed he subjected the "Pulp Fiction" star with a barrage of frightening advances.

He apologized in court on Monday. Thurman and her family were not present.

Kelsey Grammer had 'mild' heart attack

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A spokesman for Kelsey Grammer says the "Frasier" star is recovering in a Hawaii hospital after a mild heart attack this weekend. Stan Rosenfield says Grammer is "resting comfortably" in an undisclosed hospital after being stricken Saturday. Rosenfield says the 53-year-old actor will be released early this week.

Rosenfield says Grammer—the star of "Cheers," "Frasier" and the recently canceled Fox sitcom "Back to You"—was paddle-boarding with his wife, Camille, when he experienced symptoms.

The couple lives in Kona, on Hawaii's big island.

Rosenfield says Grammer was immediately taken to an area hospital where it was determined that he had suffered a "mild heart attack." The spokesman says he is unaware of any history of heart trouble for Grammer.

In this April 15, 2008 file photo, actor Kelsey Grammer arrives at the Cinema Society screening of "The Life Before Her Eyes" in New York.

Judge: Film can use John Lennon song

NEW YORK (AP)—Yoko Ono lost her legal bid Monday to stop the playing of a 15-second excerpt of John Lennon's song "Imagine" in a film challenging the theory of evolution.

Lennon's widow had sued the makers of "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed," saying they used the ex-Beatle's anthem without her permission.

Ono, who had sought a preliminary injunction before the movie gets a wider release, said she would appeal. The other plaintiffs were Lennon's sons, Sean and Julian.

U.S. District Judge Sidney Stein ruled that if the case went to court, the filmmakers would probably win under the fair use doctrine.

"That doctrine provides that the fair use of a copyrighted work for the purposes of criticism and commentary is not an infringement of copyright," Stein wrote in his decision in Manhattan federal court.

Ono said in a statement, "It is a pity that this decision weakens the rights of all copyright owners."

The defendants, Premise Media Corp. of Dallas, Rampant Films of Sherman Oaks, Calif., and Rocky Mountain Pictures Inc. of Salt Lake City, said they were pleased.

"There were important free-speech issues here - they were literally asking the judge to censor the film," said their lawyer, Anthony T. Falzone.

The movie, which opened on U.S. screens in April and is set for release in Canada later this month and on DVD in October, presents a sympathetic view of intelligent design, the theory that the universe is too complex to be explained by evolution alone.

At a hearing last month, Falzone had argued that the segment of the song in the film - "nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too" - was central to the movie because "it represents the most popular and persuasive embodiment of this viewpoint that the world is better off without religion."

The film, he said, is "asking if John Lennon was right and it's concluding he was wrong."

Ono had countered by saying, "One of the most basic rights I control by reviewing and choosing licenses is the right to say `no.' The filmmakers simply looted me of the ability to do so."

The film features Ben Stein (no relation to the judge), an actor and former speechwriter for Presidents Nixon and Ford, defending intelligent design.

In this Sept. 24, 2007 file photo, Yoko Ono, is shown in London. AP

Rock pioneer Bo Diddley dies at 79

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Bo Diddley, a founding father of rock 'n' roll whose distinctive "shave and a haircut, two bits" rhythm and innovative guitar effects inspired legions of other musicians, died Monday after months of ill health. He was 79.

Diddley died of heart failure at his home in Archer, Fla., spokeswoman Susan Clary said. He had suffered a heart attack in August, three months after suffering a stroke while touring in Iowa. Doctors said the stroke affected his ability to speak, and he had returned to Florida to continue rehabilitation.

The legendary singer and performer, known for his homemade square guitar, dark glasses and black hat, was an inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, had a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, and received a lifetime achievement award in 1999 at the Grammy Awards. In recent years he also played for the elder President Bush and President Clinton.

Diddley appreciated the honors he received, "but it didn't put no figures in my checkbook."

"If you ain't got no money, ain't nobody calls you honey," he quipped.

The name Bo Diddley came from other youngsters when he was growing up in Chicago, he said in a 1999 interview.

Young mother feels the urge to take break from parenting

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old single mom of a 17-month-old son. I love my baby dearly, but lately I feel I'm missing out on life. I feel like I need to go out on my own and find myself.

Before I got pregnant I had plans to go to college, work abroad and experience life. My mom says if I do it, I would be running away, that I can't take a break from being a mom, even for a little while, and come back and be a mom again. I know being a parent means all or nothing, but I'm still just a kid myself.

If I did leave, I'd go somewhere and use that time effectively. I have thought about going to school in Colorado where I could experience something different and give myself a shot at a better career. Would it be running away and leaving my baby if I did that?

—YOUNG AND RESTLESS IN IDAHO

DEAR YOUNG AND RESTLESS: Your mother is right. You are responsible for the welfare and emotional development of your baby. While this does not mean you can't have some social life, please recognize that your son needs consistency. He should not be left for an extended period of time. Take the college courses, but take them locally. Foreign travel to "find yourself" will have to wait because leaving your son now could cause lifelong repercussions.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have lived on a golf course for the last five years, but golf—or any sport, for that matter—has never interested me. My parents and the rest of my family can't get enough of golf. I have given it many tries, including being forced into going to two golf camps and playing the game. My parents know I don't like golf—I have told them—but they keep on insisting I "give it a try." (I have for five years. I just don't enjoy it.) And to top it off they want me to go golfing once a week.

I try to please them. I go to church, get straight A's, respect them and do my chores. But they constantly nag me about the rest of the family enjoying it, and it makes me feel guilty for being a black sheep. Are my parents asking too much, or am I being selfish?

—TEE'D OFF IN MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

DEAR TEE'D OFF: You are intelligent and obviously a high achiever. But nowhere in your letter did you mention that you are in any way physically active, which may be what concerns your parents. I cannot stress enough how important it is for young people to get at least an hour a day of cardiovascular exercise. Please consider what I'm saying. If you are adamant about disliking golf, perhaps you can make a deal with your family to engage in some other physical activity that interests you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I just turned 15, and everyone in my family gave me great presents. I'd like to write them thank-you notes instead of just telling them that I am grateful. But, I'm not sure if writing thank-you notes to my parents and siblings is too formal. Are these notes written to close family?

—EMILY IN DALLAS

DEAR EMILY: They absolutely are. Not only should you write those thank-you notes, you may be surprised to find later on that family members treasured and kept every single one you wrote.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

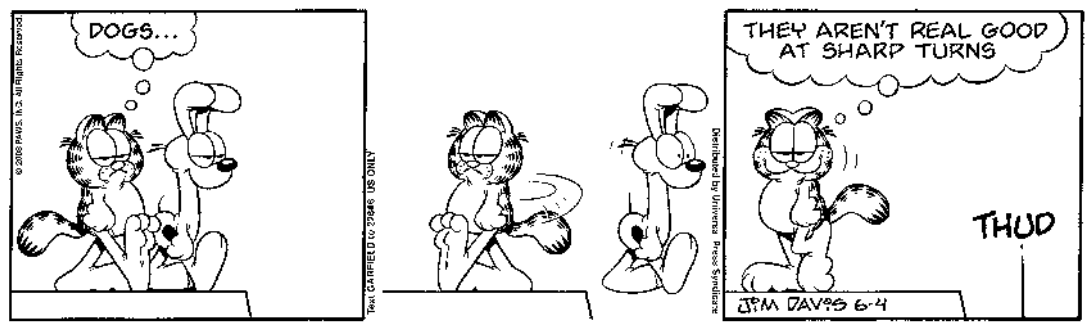
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES, IF YOU TELL ME HOW MY COMIC BOOK ENDS, I'LL KILL YOU. I'VE WAITED ALL MONTH TO FIND OUT.
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT, OK? CAPTAIN NAPALM TAKES HIS NUCLEAR...
NO HINTS! NO HINTS!
BY GOLLY, YOU HAIRBALL, IF I DIDN'T HAVE A BEE ON MY BACK RIGHT NOW, I'D...
MAYBE THERE'S A BEE AND MAYBE THERE ISN'T. I'LL NEVER TELL.
WHAT?! IS THE BEE GONE? CAN I MOVE? TELL ME! IS IT STILL THERE?? HUH? RRGGH! IS IT?!

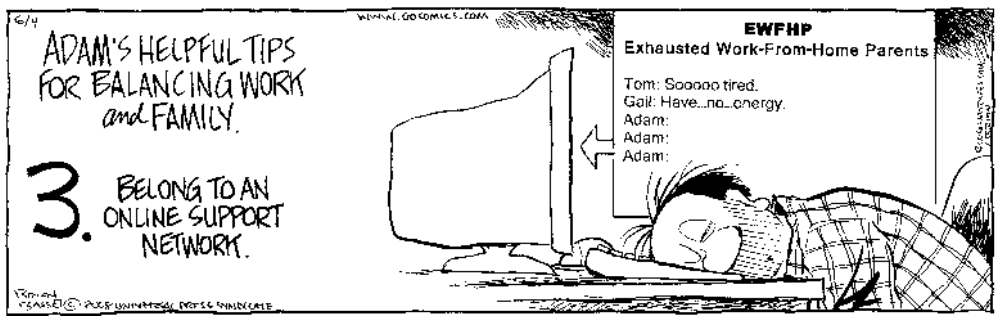
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Y'KNOW, REX, YOU'D HAVE TO EAT SIX BOWLS OF THAT BRAND OF DOG FOOD...
JUST TO EQUAL THE AMOUNT OF HORSE LIPS IN ONE BOWL OF GRAVY GRISTLE!
I HATE These Dog Food Commercials!
SIX BOWLS SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

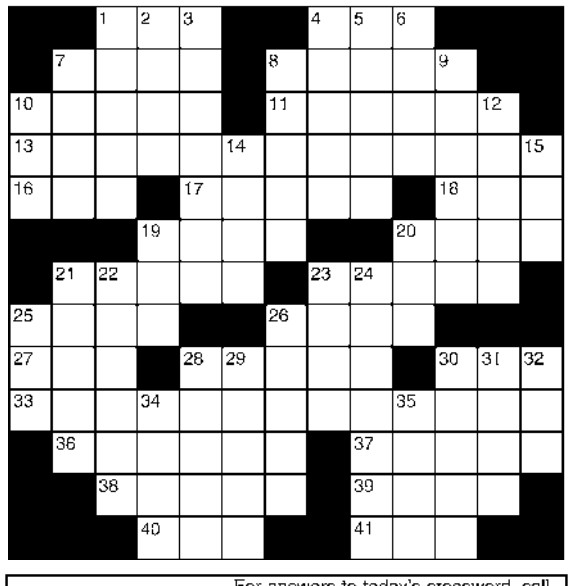
ACROSS
1 Type of headgear
4 Scot's 1-Across
7 Tea time
8 Cause a clog
10 Face-down
11 Furthest orbital point
13 1938 Kurt Weill melody
16 "Monty Python" opener
17 Bull-winkle, e.g.
18 Handheld secy.
19 Blotch
20 Hurried away
21 Englander-s
23 Exposed
25 Get ready
26 Hardly muscular
27 That guy's
28 Repentant
30 Coffee break hour
33 Late-1950s sitcom
36 Avenging spirits
37 Expenditure
38 Counts' counterparts
39 Crucial time
40 Tackle moguls
41 Japanese money

DOWN
1 Hen-houses
2 Family member
3 Replace, as a TV episode
4 Recordings
5 Love, Italian style
6 Rathskeller supply
7 Worry
8 Frilly blouse accessory
9 Vintage Streisand hit
10 Omega preceder
12 Over and done with
14 Cattle calls?
15 Wander about
19 Taste the sherry
20 Sauté
21 Concise
22 Save
23 Perry Mason portrayer
24 Whoever
25 Third degree?
26 Iron
28 Simper
29 Symbols used in ancient manuscripts
30 Tennessee footballer
31 Nervous
32 Ultra-modernist
34 Historic periods
35 Discourteous

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	H	O	P		R	O	E		H	A	I	R
H	U	L	A		C	R	N		F	D	I	F
A	G	E	S		B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L
T	O	O	T	A	L	L		A	R	M	E	D
			F	V	F		U	S	F			
A	P	P	L	E		D	R	Y	W	A	L	L
S	H	E			E	E	L			R	E	O
P	I	T	F	A	L	L		F	I	F	T	Y
			R	R	S		R	A	D			
A	S	P	I	C		C	A	T	C	A	L	L
M	E	S	S	I	A	L	L		A	R	I	A
B	A	S	K		W	A	S		R	E	D	S
O	R	T	S		E	Y	E		D	A	S	H

Yesterday's answer 6-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Angelina Jolie, 33; Noah Wyle, 37; Michelle Phillips, 64; Bruce Dern, 72

Happy Birthday: Being sure before you jump into something and hesitating or procrastinating are not the same. Forging ahead and taking a chance will still bring better results than standing still. The most successful are those who have experienced failure and learned from it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by being proactive this year. Your numbers are 2, 14, 27, 34, 41, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A trip will inspire you to go in a direction that allows greater versatility. Dealing with friends, neighbors and lovers will bring the results you want. Initiate a new activity into your plans. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll have a lot to contend with but, if you are organized and put a creative plan into play, you will accomplish what you want. There is money to be made, if not for you, for an organization you are trying to help. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will learn from what you experience today. Open up emotionally to the people around you and your thoughts will be considered and action taken. You can make some changes at home that will help you feel better about your personal life. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Secrets will be revealed if they have to do with your personal life or an infatuation you have. A subtle adjustment made now will help you out in the future without upsetting someone close to you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You are in control so what are you waiting for? Love, romance and a chance to prove your feelings to someone special are all in the stars. Your aggressive actions will lead to what you want in all areas of your life. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You won't be able to trust anyone who is too chatty. You may be forced to deal with personal matters in front of others. Keep a low profile and avoid anyone looking for a fight. Change is apparent. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take off for a mini vacation, a day with friends or an event that interests you. Make this an action-filled day. Love is in motion so include someone who excites you. Plan your next major vacation. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Organize your personal papers. A few adjustments can make your money go further. Don't be misled by someone's exaggerated information. A personal partner will help you put things in perspective. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be pushed and pulled by partnerships, love and commitments. Make up your mind if you don't want to lose out on something or someone who means more to you than you realize. Consider your options. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): It will be difficult to control emotional matters. Expect someone close to you to overreact. A business deal is likely to take on a strange but interesting direction. Do what your common sense tells you, not your heart. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Socializing with friends will lead to beneficial changes at home. Consider an educational pursuit that will help you change your mindset regarding work and the way you earn your living. You are up for a positive change. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Unexpected retaliation will cloud your plans and possibly result in your having to make all sorts of concessions. Be careful how you react to others. A slip of the tongue or how you do things will be what others judge you by. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bright, intuitive and a masterful communicator. You are relentless until you have what you want. You are a competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				8	2	3	4
	7	1		5			8	
	2		9			7		
		7			2			
	1				9			
9			8	7		5		
7		8			3		1	6
1	3					4	2	
2						3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	7	8	6	1	4	2	9
4	6	9	5	3	2	7	8	1
8	2	1	9	7	4	3	5	6
9	8	6	1	5	3	2	7	4
7	1	5	2	4	8	9	6	3
2	4	3	7	9	6	5	1	8
3	7	4	6	1	5	8	9	2
1	5	2	3	8	9	6	4	7
6	9	8	4	2	7	1	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT **Solution: 8 letters**

B	A	L	T	I	M	O	R	E	E	G	R	O	E	G
U	R	E	N	O	T	S	D	N	A	S	M	T	D	R
I	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	Y	E	C	A	F	I	A
L	H	C	N	E	G	O	E	N	T	R	L	I	R	N
D	I	N	H	O	C	Y	A	C	O	E	L	L	P	I
I	T	E	E	R	T	T	P	M	N	L	I	U	U	T
N	E	D	I	E	E	S	E	T	M	A	B	C	R	E
G	C	N	G	H	T	M	R	D	I	L	R	I	O	S
L	T	E	H	A	M	E	U	E	I	A	B	T	A	S
A	U	P	T	O	O	S	T	C	N	U	N	L	N	I
R	R	E	C	S	R	U	C	I	T	R	U	B	N	E
E	A	D	D	(E)	T	O	U	E	H	T	O	E	E	N
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No. 1 Sharapova exits French Open with sound, fury

PARIS (AP)—Maria Sharapova did not go quietly. No, her departure from the French Open was filled with sound and fury: her stroke-accompanying shrieks, her self-loathing shouts between points and the spectators' hearty boos and high-pitched whistles that ushered the No. 1-seeded woman to the exit.

One point from reaching the quarterfinals at the only Grand Slam tournament she's never won, Sharapova allowed every bit of a significant lead slip away Monday and collapsed to a 6-7 (6), 7-6 (5), 6-2 defeat against No. 13 Dinara Safina.

"Oh, I was angry," Sharapova said. "I was angry for making unforced errors, for not taking some of those balls and just ripping them." Her fourth-round departure was the most startling development on a day that included this footnote: The last U.S. man or woman playing singles at Roland Garros, 88th-ranked Robby Ginepri, was eliminated 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-1 by No. 24 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

"A five-hour 'grindfest' would have favored me a little bit more," said Ginepri, 0-5 at the French Open before this year. "I tried to end the points too quickly."

Gonzalez now faces No. 1 Roger Federer in the quarterfinals in a rematch of the 2007 Australian Open final that Federer won for one of his 12 Grand Slam titles. No. 5 David Ferrer will meet Gael Monfils in another quarterfinal.

Rounding out the rough showing for Americans in Paris, the top-seeded men's doubles team of twins Bob and Mike Bryan was upset by Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay and Luis Horna of Peru 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (1) in a quarterfinal that ended in a downpour—and with a bit of rancor.

When the teams switched sides during the third-set tiebreaker, Cuevas celebrated his duo's 5-1 lead by leaping over the net. So the Bryans didn't shake his hand when the match finished.

AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova reacts after missing a point to Russia's Dinara Safina during their fourth round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Monday June 2, 2008.

The U.S. Davis Cup doubles pair was more disturbed by the country's overall showing on clay.

"I guess we were holding the flag there at the end," Mike Bryan said. "We'll suit it up at Wimbledon and see how it goes."

Sharapova figured it wouldn't take long to get over Monday's setback and start focusing on the All England Club, where she won her first Grand Slam title in 2004 at age 17.

With last month's retirement of top-ranked Justine Henin, and last week's losses by Venus and Serena Williams, Sharapova appeared to have a clearer-than-usual path to success at the clay-court major. She was one of only two women with a Slam title to her credit among the final 16 players, but will have to wait for another year in Paris.

"I came very close," Sharapova said.

She led 5-2 in the second set, and went up 40-30 while serving for the match at 5-3. But Safina erased that chance with a backhand winner, and eventually broke when Sharapova missed a forehand. In the ensuing tiebreaker, Sharapova took a 5-2 lead, but Safina claimed five straight points.

"It can go in the wrong direction really fast," Sharapova said. "It just started going that way."

Until now, Safina was best known for being the kid sister of Marat Safin, who won the 2000 U.S. Open and 2005 Australian Open. She shares his broad shoulders and short temper, but thus far had not displayed quite as much talent or taste for the big stage, never advancing beyond the quarterfinals at a major.

Even after beating Sharapova, she didn't exactly display bravado. Asked whether she could win the title, Safina puffed her cheeks, exhaled loudly, and replied, "I mean, it's not easy."

So who could have been surprised that she wasted two set points at 6-4 in the first tiebreaker? After blowing the second set point, she spiked her racket precisely the way Marat does, drawing a warning from the chair umpire.

"I'm not the girl to keep all the emotions I have inside," Safina said. "I guess I have to pay lots of fines because that's the way I am."

She now faces No. 7 Elena Dementieva, the 2004 French Open finalist who beat No. 11 Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 in another all-Russian match Monday.

Two other women's matches were suspended because of darkness. No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2004 U.S. Open champion, led No. 16 Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 2-2, while Petra Kvitova and Kaia Kanepi, two unseeded players, split two sets.

For Sharapova, things really began to fall apart when she served while trailing 3-2 in the third set.

At 15-love, Safina's forehand landed near a line, and Sharapova missed a backhand. Sharapova asked the chair umpire to check the mark from Safina's shot, drawing scattered noise from the crowd, and the call stood.

On the next point, Sharapova botched a sitter and put a forehand into the net—drawing cheers, generally considered a breach of etiquette among tennis spectators. Another short ball came at 15-30, and perhaps wary of another miscue, Sharapova sent it back cautiously, allowing Safina to pound a forehand. That prompted a scream from Sharapova.

As play proceeded, her yells became louder and louder as she berated herself, at least once with colorful language.

"You sometimes get a little too negative on yourself," Sharapova said.

After erasing three break points in that game, Sharapova netted two forehands in a row, ceding the break. Now it was Safina's turn to let it out: She raised a fist and bellowed. A match in which she was playing from so far behind for so long was now in her control, and she did not let go, collecting 10 of the final 12 points—including Sharapova's seventh double-fault of the match, 43rd of the tournament.

When it ended, Safina dropped to her knees to celebrate. Sharapova quickly collected her things and left without acknowledging the fans who jeered her on the way out.

"I can't please everyone. That's not in my 'J.D.'—not in my job description," she said.

"I mean, they paid the ticket to watch me," she added, "so they must appreciate me on some level, right?"

Sharapova moved up from No. 2 to No. 1 when Henin quit, but the stay might be brief. Ana Ivanovic, Jelena Jankovic and Kuznetsova all could lead the rankings by the end of the week. Sharapova was asked about the possibility of losing her spot at the top.

Her reply? "Boohoo."

Taylor wants to play 1 more year, is open to trade

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP)—Jason Taylor wanted to clear the air on numerous topics. No, he did not demand a trade from the Miami Dolphins. Yes, he wants to play one more season before moving on to an acting career. No, he still hasn't spoken with new Dolphins boss Bill Parcells.

Yes, he believes Tony Sparano will be a good coach in Miami. No, he doesn't regret missing workouts to appear on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." Yes, he desperately wants to leave football a winner.

But on one issue—whether he will he be at training camp with the Dolphins next month—Taylor showed he can dance while seated, too.

"Do I want to be here? Yeah, I'd love to be here," Taylor said Sunday morning while seated on the top level of an arena in Hollywood—the South Florida suburb, that is, not the movie-making capital that has piqued his interest considerably in recent weeks and will likely beckon once he retires. "I would love to be a Dolphin and win games and have it work out for everybody. But that may not be the case."

So the mystery of whether the six-time Pro Bowl defensive end has played his last game for Miami will live on, at least a bit longer.

Taylor seemed to be choosing his words carefully in a 30-minute question-and-answer session, especially when it came to the particularly thorny notion of the Dolphins trading him elsewhere.

He denied widespread reports suggesting his side has demanded a trade, but finally acknowledged what has been suspected for weeks: If Miami wants to move him, he won't argue.

"I want to win in '08. That's what I want to do," Taylor said. "And I've told the Dolphins from Day 1 that was my intention. My intentions right now are to play one more year. I've tried to give the Dolphins the opportunity, if they wanted to do something and move me, then I was OK with that. If they can get value for me, then do that. That was the conversation we had behind closed doors a long time ago."

But since that conversation, the relationship between Taylor and Parcells has seemed to spiral toward broken.

The Dolphins clearly weren't happy that Taylor missed offseason workouts for "Dancing with the Stars." He'll miss another organized team activity day on Monday, when he hosts a charity golf tournament to benefit his foundation, which works with children and is highly active in South Florida. He'll miss minicamp this weekend, too, for both his brother's graduation and an unspecified legal matter.

And on May 21, Sparano—part of the huge overhaul after Miami's 1-15 season a year ago—added even more drama.

Without offering much in the way of details, Sparano said Taylor would not be with the team for any minicamps or training camp.

"I'm glad we know this and we've gotten the information," Sparano said at the time, and neither he nor Parcells nor general manager Jeff Ireland has addressed it since.

So on Sunday, Taylor offered a sliver of his side on that story—but again, stopping short of revealing all the details.

"I think what he was trying to accomplish was a little different than what may have came out," said Taylor, who met with Sparano last week. "But what Tony and I talk about closed doors, I think, needs to stay that way."

Some of what has gone on behind those doors, though, has leaked out.

Most notably came this encounter: During a trip back to Miami while "Dancing" was still going on, Taylor visited the Dolphins' offices while Parcells was watching tape. Parcells barely acknowledged Taylor when his defensive end entered the room, and within seconds turned all his attention back to the tape.

"Did it happen? Yeah," Taylor said. "But I'm not going to talk further about it."

The Dolphins have not commented about Taylor since May 21. Sparano vowed he would not address the issue further after that day.

"It would be real great to be able to learn from him and play against him because he's one of the best in the game," Dolphins offensive lineman Jake Long, the No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft, said Saturday at the team's annual charity fishing tournament. "So I'm really excited for that chance. Hopefully it happens."

It still might.

Taylor has spent all 11 of his NFL seasons with the Dolphins, winning defensive player of the year honors in 2006. But the Dolphins - who haven't made the playoffs in six seasons and haven't gotten past the divisional round since Taylor arrived—are rebuilding, once again.

Taylor's brother-in-law and longtime defensive teammate, Zach Thomas, was released in February and ultimately signed with the Dallas Cowboys. (Taylor called Thomas' departure disappointing Sunday.) Parcells is in the midst of shaking up the entire roster. And it's probably a safe bet that the process of making Miami a winner again will last longer than Taylor's anticipated one-year window.

"At 34 years old, you start to count your days a little more and cherish the days a little more," said Taylor, who turns 34 on Sept. 1. "I think that Bill and Tony and Jeff will be the right guys for the job. And how quickly this turns around here? I don't know. We'll see."

Utley goes deep again in Phillies' win over Reds

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ken Griffey Jr. remained one shy of 600 home runs after getting the night off, but Philadelphia's Chase Utley hit his major league-leading 21st homer to help the Phillies beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-4 on Monday.

Utley went deep for the fifth straight game, tying a club record he shares with Dick Allen, Mike Schmidt and Bobby Abreu. Utley also homered in five consecutive games earlier this season.

Pedro Feliz and Chris Coste also connected for the NL East-leading Phillies. Rookie sensation Jay Bruce and Edwin Encarnacion went deep for the Reds.

Bruce had two hits in his first three at-bats, making him 15-for-25 overall. The last player to have at least 15 hits in his first 25 major league at-bats was Chris C. Jones of the Reds in 1991, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Bruce finished 2-for-4.

Kyle Kendrick (5-2) gave up four runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings for the win.

Braves 7, Marlins 5

At Atlanta, John Smoltz blew a save in his return to the mound as a closer, but Yunel Escobar picked him up with the first game-ending homer of his career, a two-run shot in the 10th inning to lift Atlanta over Florida.

Pitching in relief for the first time since 2004, Smoltz came on in the ninth with a 4-3 lead. The Marlins were down to their last out when Jeremy Hermida drove in two runs with a single.

But Jeff Francoeur hustled home on a wild pitch in the bottom half to get Smoltz off the hook, and Escobar won it in the 10th with a drive that bounced off the top of the wall in right center and into the seats.

In the 10th, Logan Kensing (3-1) walked Kelly Johnson, then surrendered Escobar's fifth homer of the season.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Jason Michaels hit a tying pinch-hit grand slam in the seventh and Jason Bay drove in the winning run an inning later as Pittsburg rallied past St. Louis.

Michaels, batting for Raul Chavez, hit his first home run of the season on the first pitch he saw from starter Adam Wainwright (5-3). The two-out blast landed in the Pirates' bullpen and was just the second hit of the inning. It was his first homer with the Pirates and his first since hitting one against Texas on Aug. 1, 2007, while with Cleveland.

Brewers 4, Diamondbacks 3

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder homered to leadoff the eighth and helped scratch across another run with an unlikely steal of third to lift Milwaukee over Arizona.

Fielder, who went 3-for-4, drove a fastball by Arizona reliever Doug Slaten (0-2) deep to left-center field where it bounced off a stadium support just below a "Vote Brewers" All-Star banner to give Milwaukee its first lead, 4-3.

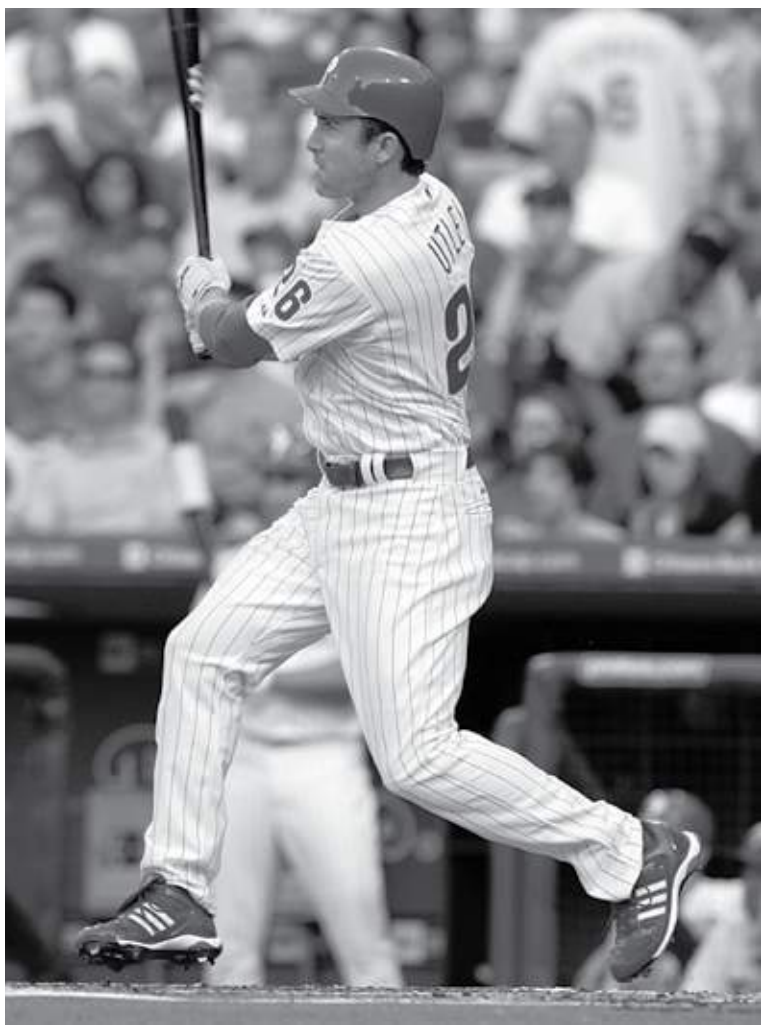
It was Fielder's third homer in the last four games and ninth this year. The Brewers have won fourth in a row.

Cubs 7, Padres 6

At San Diego, Carlos Zambrano was as animated as he was good, helping Chicago to its eighth straight win with a victory over San Diego.

Zambrano (8-1) allowed three runs in the first inning before settling down. He legged out three hits to tie his career-high and raise his average to .366. He hit a standup RBI triple that tied the game in the fourth, his third career triple.

The best team in baseball, the Cubs (37-21) held on to win the opener of a seven-game swing through San Diego and Los Angeles. They were coming off a 7-0 stretch at Wrigley Field, their first unbeaten homestand of at least six games since 1970. It's their first eight-game winning streak since 2001, when they won 12 straight between May 19-June 2.



AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Chase Utley follows his two-run home run as it goes into the right field stands in the first inning of a baseball game with the Cincinnati Reds, Monday, June 2, 2008 in Philadelphia.

Dodgers 8, Rockies 2

At Los Angeles, Jeff Kent, Andre Ethier and Matt Kemp hit home runs, Derek Lowe pitched eight strong innings for his first win in more than five weeks, and Los Angeles handed Colorado its eighth straight loss.

Lowe (3-5) allowed a run and five hits, striking out three and walking one to get his first victory in eight starts since April 23.

The Rockies, who lost their 13th straight on the road, were missing left fielder Matt Holliday, right fielder Brad Hawpe and shortstop Troy Tulowitzki—who combined for 89 home runs and 352 RBIs and batted a cumulative .308 last season.

Giants 10, Mets 2

At San Francisco, Brian Horwitz hit the first home run of his career with a two-run shot in the Giants' six-run first and Ray Durham also drove in three runs to help San Francisco beat the sluggish New York.

Randy Winn also homered with a leadoff drive in the first, when Aaron Rowand doubled to extend his hitting streak to 10 games. Durham hit a two-run double in the initial inning as the Giants knocked New York starter Oliver Perez (4-4) out after he got only one out, staking Giants starter Jonathan Sanchez to a comfortable cushion.

The Mets, who had won five of six, sure played like they were tired. After a night game Sunday back home at Shea Stadium, the team arrived in the Bay Area behind schedule, landing around 4:30 a.m. and getting settled into the team hotel an hour later.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 3

At Baltimore, Adam Jones broke a tie with a three-run double in the eighth inning, and the Orioles overcame another home run by Manny Ramirez to beat the Boston Red Sox, avoiding a four-game sweep.

Baltimore blew a 2-0 lead, then rallied with a four-run eighth against Hideki Okajima (1-1). After a sacrifice fly by Kevin Millar tied it, the Orioles loaded the bases with two outs for Jones, lined a shot off the left-field wall.

Ramirez homered in a third consecutive game to reach 502 for his career, two behind Eddie Murray for 23rd place in baseball history. The last time Ramirez homered in three straight games was May 22-24, 2006.

He also hit a single off Jim Johnson (1-2) to put the go-ahead run in scoring position in the eighth for Mike Lowell, who delivered an RBI single for a 3-2 lead.

Twins 6, Yankees 5

At Minneapolis, Delmon Young had three doubles and three RBIs and Joe Mauer hit his long-awaited first homer of the season to lead Minnesota past New York.

Young's breakout performance at the plate comes after a rough first two months in Minnesota. He entered the game hitting .264 with no homers and just 15 RBIs after coming over in a trade from Tampa Bay.

The 22-year-old had RBI-doubles in the second and sixth innings before giving the Twins the lead for good with another two-bagger off Kyle Farnsworth (0-2) that scored Michael Cuddyer in the eighth.

Joe Nathan picked up his 15th save in 16 chances and Matt Guerrier (3-1) pitched 1 2-3 innings of scoreless relief for the win.

Alex Rodriguez homered and drove in two runs.

Indians 13, Rangers 9

At Arlington, Texas, Casey Blake homered twice and matched a career high with seven RBIs before Ben Francisco hit a tiebreaking two-run homer to power Cleveland past Texas.

Francisco's homer in the seventh came on the first pitch by reliever Joaquin Benoit, breaking an 8-8 tie after the Indians had blown a five-run lead.

Blake hit two-run homers in the second and third innings, then added a three-run double in the fourth that made it 8-3.

Josh Hamilton homered in his third straight game for Texas. The two-run shot was his AL-best 16th and increased his majors-leading RBI total to 65 in his 58 games.

Masa Kobayashi (3-2) allowed a hit and a run with three strikeouts in 1 2-3 innings.

Angels 4, Mariners 2

At Seattle, Ervin Santana gave up two runs in 7 2-3 innings to lead Los Angeles past Seattle.

After beating Detroit with his third career complete game last week, Santana (8-2) nearly bested himself against Seattle. He gave up six hits and struck out three, and didn't face a three-ball count on a batter until two outs in the seventh inning.

Casey Kotchman ripped three singles, Robb Quinlan had a pair of base hits and an RBI and the trio scored three of the Angels' four runs.

Athletics 3, Tigers 2

At Oakland, California, Bobby Crosby hit an RBI single in the ninth inning to lift Oakland over Detroit.

Kurt Suzuki led off the ninth with a sharp single off Francisco Cruceta (0-3) and went to second on Jack Hannahan's sacrifice. He scored easily as Crosby's hit traveled to the wall in right-center field.

Crosby doubled in his first two at bats before grounding out and hitting into a double play.

Huston Street (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning to earn the victory as the A's won for the sixth time in their last eight at home.

TO agrees to 3-year, $27M extension with Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Terrell Owens has been on his best behavior for quite awhile. The Dallas Cowboys are doing their best to keep it that way. Both sides agreed Monday to a three-year contract extension worth around $27 million, according to a person close to the negotiations who asked to remain anonymous because it hasn't been announced.

The key to the deal may not be the length or even the money, which is close to what Randy Moss received.

The best part: Owens will not be playing out the final year of his contract, eliminating a potentially explosive topic from a team that needs its attention on ending an 11-season drought without a playoff win.

Word of Owens' deal came a few hours after the Cowboys got other good news: NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is allowing suspended cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones to join the club all the way up to the regular season and will decide by Sept. 1 if Jones can be fully reinstated.

Owens' last few deals have been nothing but headline-makers. There was the seven-year, $48.97 million contract he got from the Philadelphia Eagles in 2004, followed by all the complaining he did about it in 2005. The Eagles cut him, letting him sign anywhere else, and he wound up getting a three-year, $25 million deal from the Cowboys.

Jerry Jones sure has gotten his money's worth.

Owens has provided glitz, jersey sales—and lots of catches. He led the NFL with 13 touchdown catches in 2006, then had an NFC-best 15 more last season. His two-year total is tops in the NFL.

His success also coincided with the emergence of Tony Romo, who went from backup to Pro Bowler by following the simple formula of throwing to No. 81 whenever possible.

Owens has insisted for months that he wasn't worried about his next contract because Jones always takes care of his players. True enough, Jones re-signed offensive lineman Flozell Adams early in the offseason, then recently gave extensions to cornerback Terence Newman and running back Marion Barber. All were quite lucrative, just like this one.

Now that the Cowboys are back to being among the NFC's top teams, Jones wants to keep it that way. As much as he wants to win a playoff game for the first time since the 1996 season, and a Super Bowl for the first time since 1995, he also has seats and luxury suites to sell. The team is footing the bill for most of a $1.1 billion stadium that will seat 80,000 for most games, with a capacity of up to 100,000.

Owens will turn 38 in December of the final year of the extension, 2011.

He's 34 now and in as good shape as anyone a decade younger. A fitness devotee, he's unlikely to let himself go now. His former teammate and mentor Jerry Rice played well into his 40s.

The Cowboys have never brought up Owens' age in anything but a positive light. In fact, since coach Bill Parcells left after the 2006 season, the club and "the player"—as Parcells called him—have gotten along just fine. Even fans have come around to the guy who made himself Public Enemy No. 1 for spiking a ball onto the team's midfield star logo twice in the same game while he played for the San Francisco 49ers.

Paying him on par with Moss is another way to keep T.O. smiling.

Owens has averaged 83 catches and 1,267.5 yards over his two seasons in Dallas.

A five-time All-Pro, Owens is ninth on the career receptions list with 882, 10th in receiving yards with 13,070 and third in touchdown with 129.

He's also the active leader in TD receptions, a point of pride for a guy who was the 89th overall pick in 1996, the draft that featured Keyshawn Johnson taken first overall, with Terry Glenn, Eddie Kennison, Marvin Harrison, Eric Moulds, Amani Toomer, Muhsin Muhammad and Bobby Engram among the receivers taken before Owens.

Coca-Cola a proud supporter of Chamber golf

Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. sponsored a hole in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Inaugural Chamber Golf Tournament and provided beverages at the fundraiser event held over the weekend

The tourney was organized to supplement the Chamber's finances to keep it abreast with its ongoing programs and carry out many more events for the island in keeping with the business group's mission to promote the civic interests and general health and welfare of the local community.

Johnnie Fong, CCBM managing director, said Coca-Cola was proud to co-sponsor the event, since it was held for a worthy cause.

"We are always happy to participate in events that advance educational endeavors and at the same time promote camaraderie among businesses. Coca-Cola is committed to supporting initiatives for education and business, as these go hand-in-hand toward building a sustainable business environment in particular and the community in general," Fong said.

MARK RABAGO

Participants of last Saturday's Inaugural Chamber Golf Tournament relax with friends after a morning round of golf at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Kyle Calabrese, executive director for the Chamber; welcomed the donation from Coca-Cola saying, "The Chamber is grateful for the support of Coca-Cola, whose membership in and support for the Chamber has been longstanding and significant."

"Coca-Cola's generosity, along with the generosity of many other companies that supported this event, will allow the Chamber additional funds to carry out educational events that not only benefit our members, but also benefit the community at large," he added.

According to Calabrese there were more than 50 companies that supported the tournament through in-kind donations for the event itself, including donations for the ditty bags that were given to all players, raffle prize donors, hole sponsors, and hole-in-one sponsors.

"We continued to receive offers of donations and support on a daily basis while preparations were in progress," he said.

Aside from signing for a hole sponsorship, Coca-Cola also donated five 12-pack cases of bottled water and three cases of Powerade.

The Inaugural Chamber Golf Tournament was held last Saturday, May 31, 2008, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course. ***(PR)***

Co-ed Soccer Summer League kicks off next week

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Co-ed Soccer Summer League is set to kick off next week for a second year of co-ed action. Registration for the league is ongoing and organizers are looking to fill the rosters of six co-ed teams.

Teams will be picked over the weekend via a school yard draft. The two co-captains of each team will pick a player, then that player will pick the next player, and so on until the rosters of all six teams are full. With this kind of a draft, players will get to play on the same team as their friends, while also ensuring that the skill level of all teams will be roughly equal.

The summer league lasts for eight weeks starting on June 10, with games played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Each team will play one game per week.

Games will start at 5:15pm on game days and will consist of two 35-minute halves with five-minute halftimes.

The Co-ed Soccer Summer League is an adult league, but younger players looking to compete against some of the island's veteran players are encouraged to register. Last year's youngest player was 13-year-old Sami Birmingham-Babauta, now a sophmore at Saipan Southern High School. All skill levels are welcome to participate, as this is a non-competitive recreational league.

This year there will be six teams as opposed to the four teams that competed last year. The sponsors for the 2007 league were Porky's, Wild Bills, Godfather's, and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The league is still looking for sponsors for this year.

The registration form can be downloaded at http://nmifa.blogspot.com. Completed forms can be dropped off at the NMIFA office located on Beach Road in Garapan or emailed to nmifacoed@gmail.com.

The registration fee is only $15 and includes a co-ed T-shirt and eight weeks of play. For questions, contact co-ed league commissioner Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462. ***(NMIFA)***

SSC

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"Kai is more than a year younger than Rezne was when he set this record. Kai is 13 years and four months old, while Rezne was 14 years and 10 months [when he set the record]. I believe if Kai continues to work as he has he will be the best 13-14 swimmer if not the greatest CNMI male swimmer overall ever. Before he turns 15, Kai can own at least 10 13-14 CNMI National Age Group records. He's that good!" proclaimed Stewart.

Staal was not the only SSC member to medal in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships, as the other eight tankers that made the trip for SSC also brought home at least a piece of hardware each.

Grace Kimball won eight in all, with silver medals in 50m, 100m, 200m, 800m, and 1,500m freestyle, 50m and 100m backstroke, and a bronze in the 400m freestyle.

Lester Lapuz and Abigail Martinsen won four medals apiece. Lapuz took home a silver in the 800m and 1,500m freestyle and 400m individual medley, and a bronze in the 400m freestyle.

Martinsen, for her part, struck gold in the 400m freestyle, earned a silver in the 200m freestyle, and a couple of bronzes in the 50m and 100m freestyle.

Andrew Kimball was also impressive in the pool, towing back to Saipan silver medals in the 200m and 400m freestyle and a bronze in the 100 backstroke.

Michael Moran also made his home islands proud with a silver in the 200m freestyle relay and a bronze in the 1,500 freestyle.

Victoria Chentsova, Blair Nicholls, and Junior Pamaran also medaled in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

Chentsova finished third in the 400m freestyle to win a bronze, while Nicholls and Pamaran went home with medals as part of the silver medal-winning SSC team in the 200m freestyle relay.

The 32-medal haul notwithstanding, Stewart said SSC swimmers could have raked in more hardware if not for the absence of three outstanding swimmers.

Sarah Johnson, the CNMI's premiere female swimmer, could have added eight more medals to SSC's total, according to Stewart.

At least another half dozen medals were also missed because of the absence of Cooper Graf, who Stewart said is the islands' top distance swimmer. He said Graf is currently in Texas visiting and training with his family.

Selyna Leon Guerrero, another top distance swimmer for the CNMI, could have also medaled in a couple events.

Stewart also extended his thanks to Tan Holdings Foundation and Tan Holdings Corp. president Jerry Tan, "for all their help in the success of Saipan swimming."

SMITHEREENS

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"Our heroes of the day were our awesome goalkeeper Noi Horey and our defender Sonya Lizama. Noi blocked many shots throughout the game but the one that was most impressive was when she blocked a hard penalty shot from Lindsay Davis. Sonya, for her part, saved a goal by clearing a loose ball that was headed straight for the goal line. She also did a great job with her throw-ins and defensive field work," said Schultz after the game.

With Saturday's semifinal matches accounted for, Smithereens finished with the league's top standing with 12 points. In second place is Paradise In Cleats with nine points. In third place is Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues with five points and in fourth place is Wild Bill's Wild Fire with four points.

The Smithereens and Paradise In Cleats championship game this Saturday kicks off at 10am at the CPA Airport Field.

Spectacular Blues and Wild Fire will go head-to-head for third and fourth place at 8:15am. An awards ceremony will be held immediately following the championship game.

WABOL

From Page 28

laysia earlier in May.

In the 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship, he shook off Tanpinco's early challenge by taking three of the last five holes at the back to go four-up in their morning matchup.

He then endured the 30-minute weather delay shortly after the resumption of play before coasting to the victory, capping a great four weeks of competitive golf that netted two victories abroad plus the 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship.

But according to the National Golf Association of the Philippines' website, the 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship was the sweetest of the three because he beat the cream of the crop, fashioning out the win after five grueling days of top-level golf, that included two rounds of stroke play eliminations which he topped before beating two rivals in each of the next three days of match play.

Tanpinco, leaning on sheer guts in the absence of solid preparation in a tournament of this magnitude after arriving only last week following a 16-month study in San Diego, California, didn't fare well either in the afternoon match, falling farther behind by five holes after six holes before birdying the par-four No. 7 to get to within four again.

But that was the closest he would come to Aunzo's lead, as the newly minted 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf champion waltzed his way to victory with an amazing display of shot-making in the homestretch.

LOAD

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ment of Public Safety in the first game and the second game between Northern Marianas College and Department of Corrections.

Scheduled games postponed today are the games between Legislature and host PTI and Tinian Bombers and Division of Public Works/Procurement & Supply, while Friday's matches put on the shelf are between Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Aguaguat and DOC and Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Northern Marianas Badminton Federation also cancelled its weekday practices for the rest of the week due to the scheduled power shedding. The local badminton body usually holds its practices on Tuesday and Thursday nights—or evenings when there are no basketball schedule.

The June monthly membership meeting of NMASA set for tomorrow, June 5, has also been postponed to next Thursday.

According to NMASA president Michael White, the NMASA meeting will now be set on June 12, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

While BANMI, NMBF, and NMASA were forced to rework their schedule because of the load shedding, the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League just decided to start their games a little later.

According to chief statistician Joe Lizama, SML president Tony Rogolifoi told him that games are now set at 8pm.

Monday's game between Ford Rangers (6-3) and O'Connor Tigers (1-8) was played last night, while Rock Steady stakes its perfect 9-0 mark this evening against the surging Tanapag Falcons (6-3) at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Koreans Dreams (5-5), meanwhile, try to bounce back from its 9-10 setback to the Falcons last May 30 when it takes on Kabur (2-8) this coming Friday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	22	.614	_
Boston	35	25	.583	1 1/2
Toronto	31	28	.525	5
New York	28	29	.491	7
Baltimore	27	29	.482	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	30	26	.536	_
Minnesota	30	27	.526	1/2
Cleveland	26	31	.456	4 1/2
Detroit	24	33	.421	6 1/2
Kansas City	23	34	.404	7 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	35	24	.593	_
Oakland	31	27	.534	3 1/2
Texas	29	30	.492	6
Seattle	21	37	.362	13 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	34	25	.576	_
Florida	31	25	.554	1 1/2
Atlanta	30	28	.517	3 1/2
New York	28	28	.500	4 1/2
Washington	24	34	.414	9 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	37	21	.638	_
St. Louis	34	25	.576	3
Houston	30	28	.517	6 1/2
Milwaukee	30	28	.517	6 1/2
Cincinnati	28	30	.483	8 1/2
Pittsburgh	27	30	.474	9

West Division

Arizona	32	26	.552	_
Los Angeles	28	29	.491	3 1/2
San Francisco	25	33	.431	7
San Diego	23	36	.390	9 1/2
Colorado	20	38	.345	12

Yesterday's Games

Baltimore 6, Boston 3
Minnesota 6, N.Y. Yankees 5
Cleveland 13, Texas 9
Oakland 3, Detroit 2
L.A. Angels 4, Seattle 2
Philadelphia 5, Cincinnati 4
Atlanta 7, Florida 5, 10 innings
Milwaukee 4, Arizona 3
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 4
Chicago Cubs 7, San Diego 6
L.A. Dodgers 8, Colorado 2
San Francisco 10, N.Y. Mets 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Cycling's popularity on the rise'

Photos and Text By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A total of 29 mountain bike enthusiasts—20 in the open, six in the beginners' category, and three in the kids'—took part in the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

No less than the Marianas Visitors Authority admitted that the popularity of cycling was the reason behind the staging of the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race last Saturday.

The American Memorial Park to Mount Tapochao off-road race was a nice bookend to Tourism Month celebrations last May, according to MVA public relations and community projects manager Martin Duenas

He added that when MVA was brainstorming about what events would be great to stage during Tourism Month, they quickly thought about cycling, especially the off-road type because of the recent popularity of the sport brought about by the islands' annual hosting of the XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Duenas said, for certain, the Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race would return next year, but they would have to schedule it on a Sunday since a number of bikers failed to take part in Saturday's event because of commitments at work.

In all, a total of 29 mountain bike enthusiasts took part in the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Of the number, 20 were entered in the open category won by seasoned triathletes Butch Sublemente and Mieko Carey.

Sublemente reached the finish line at the American Memorial Park in 57:02, while Carey finished sixth overall and tops among women cyclists, timing in at 1:03:21.

Larry Malig and Nuradin Gutzwiller, meanwhile, won the side events of last Saturday's competition.

Malig bested a six-person field in the eight-mile beginners' category of the event in a time of 20:31, while Gutzwiller won over two other competitors in the two-mile competition for children after checking in at 10:53.

Proceeds from the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race will go into a charitable trust fund account that will provide an opportunity for non-profit organizations to submit a grant application.

Aside from MVA, the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race was also sponsored by Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Pacific Islands Club, Yano's Ent., Inc., Saipan World Resort, Saipan Grand Hotel, Tasi Tours and Bus Transportation, Northern Marianas Athletics, Ross Quinn (who helped clear the course), and landowners in Mt. Tapochao were also critical in the event's successful staging.

Thai Massage masseur Butch Sublemente is all smiles after receiving his prizes for topping the open category of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race. Also in photo are MVA staff Martin Duenas, left, and Ed Diaz.

MVA staff Martin Duenas, left, and Ed Diaz present an ever-smiling Mieko Carey her winnings for topping the women's division open category of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Kanae Quinn just missed finishing in the Top 3 of the women's division of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race. She clocked in with a time of 1:32:37.

Nuradin Gutzwiller shows off his winnings after finishing first in the kids' course of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Ross Quinn was his usual funny self as he crossed the finish line with a time of 1:01:17 in the open division.

Dr. Florian Braig, left, poses with Filipino bikers following the conclusion of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Tyce Mister, right, and Nate Hawley came in second and third in the men's division of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race with times of 57:20 and 57:22, respectively.

Dr. Richard Brostrom was the final cyclist to check in at American Memorial Park, finishing the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race in 1:34:50.

'Cycling's popularity on the rise'

No less than the Marianas Visitors Authority admitted that the popularity of cycling was the reason behind the staging of the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race last Saturday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

No. 1 Sharapova exits French Open with sound, fury

Maria Sharapova did not go quietly. No, her departure from the French Open was filled with sound and fury: her stroke-accompanying shrieks, her self-loathing shouts between points and the spectators' hearty boos.

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SSC hauls back 32 medals from Guam

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Led by local swimming's newest Golden Boy, Kai Staal, the Saipan Swim Club won 32 medals in last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

SSC head coach Michael Stewart said Staal had the most impressive performance of the nine SSC swimmers that competed in the Hagatna Pool last Saturday, as the 13-year-old took home seven medals—a gold in the 50m freestyle and silver medals in the 100m and 200m freestyle, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, and 200m freestyle relay.

But what was more impressive, according to Stewart, was that Staal's time of 35.97 in the 50m breaststroke broke Rezne Wong's age group record of 36.92 set during the 2005 SSC International Swim Meet.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The nine Saipan Swim Club members that competed in last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships pose with their medals at Fiesta Resort Guam. Front row from left, Victoria Chentsova, Andrew Kimball, Lester Lapuz, and Abigail Martinsen. Second row from left, Junior Pamaran, Grace Kimball, Blair Nicholls, Kai Staal, Michael Moran, and SSC head coach Michael Stewart.

Load shedding cancels games at Oleai

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Basketball games and badminton practices at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium have been cancelled for the rest of the week because of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s load shedding schedule.

Another casualty of power outages at the Oleai Sports Complex is the scheduled monthly meeting of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

According to Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar, the 2008 PTI Inter-Government/Business League has cancelled its six scheduled games this week because of the load shedding schedule, which runs from 6pm to 8pm.

Cancelled games last Monday were the matches pitting Tinian Bombers and Depart-

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Smithereens, Paradise In Cleats advance to women's finals

By MARK RABAGO
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Matt Smith's Smithereens and PIC's Paradise In Cleats will face off in the finals of the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League this Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Smithereens were first to book a berth in the championship game despite finishing its semifinal match last Saturday against Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues in a scoreless draw.

Spectacular Blues took the offense early on in the first half with numerous shots at goals by Zoe Jewell and attempted crosses by Thinthin Conlon.

Additional strong offensive plays were contributed by teen players Emelaine Fejeran, Elisa Fejeran, Amber Roberts, and Rima Halaby.

However, Spectacular Blues were thwarted by big defensive plays by Smithereens. In the second half, Spectacular Blues pushed its offense even harder, but strong defense by Cathy Anderson and goalie Maria Ornes prevented the score.

Smithereens also had a few breakaways by Taylor Smith, Maryana Gramlich, Lovelle D'Lonsond, and Nola HIx, but were unable to break through the Spectacular Blues' defense.

Paradise In Cleats later joined Smithereens in the finals after nipping Wild Bill's Wild Fire, 1-0, in their own semifinal contest.

The winning goal was made by captain Brenda Schultz, who found the back of the net on a penalty kick early in the second half of the game.

Wild Fire had a chance with a hard penalty shot by captain Lindsay Davis, but a tremendous save by PIC goalie Noi Horey prevented the score.

See SMITHEREENS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matt Smith's Smithereens and Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues battled to a scoreless draw in their semis match in the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PIC's Paradise In Cleats' Sue Knecht in action against a phalanx of Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues players in their own semifinal game in the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Wabol fails to make cut in RP Amateur

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol was conventional by his standards in last week's 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship after he missed the cut by eight strokes.

Playing at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club in Bacolod City, Philippines, the former Oleai Elementary School principal shot a woeful seven-over par 82 in the first round last May 28.

Wabol, who was representing Laolao Bay Golf Resort in the tournament, fired a 38 in the front nine before limping back to the clubhouse with a miserable 44 in the back nine.

Needing a 71 or better to qualify for the final two rounds of the Championships, Wabol started out fine with an even-par 36. He, however, shot himself on the foot with a disastrous seven-over par 43 in the back nine to kiss his chances goodbye for a back-door entry to the final two rounds.

In the end, Wabol finished with a 161 to finish tied in 66th and 67th places.

Ferdie Aunzo won the 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship last Sunday after overwhelming J.R. Tanpinco in their marathon 36-hole duel by cruising to a 5 & 4 victory.

The win capped Aunzo's whirlwind three-week campaign, as he won the Karambunai Open and the Sabah Amateur Open in Ma-

See WABOL on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol, shown here in a file photo, failed to make the cut in last week's 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship held in Bacolod City, Philippines.